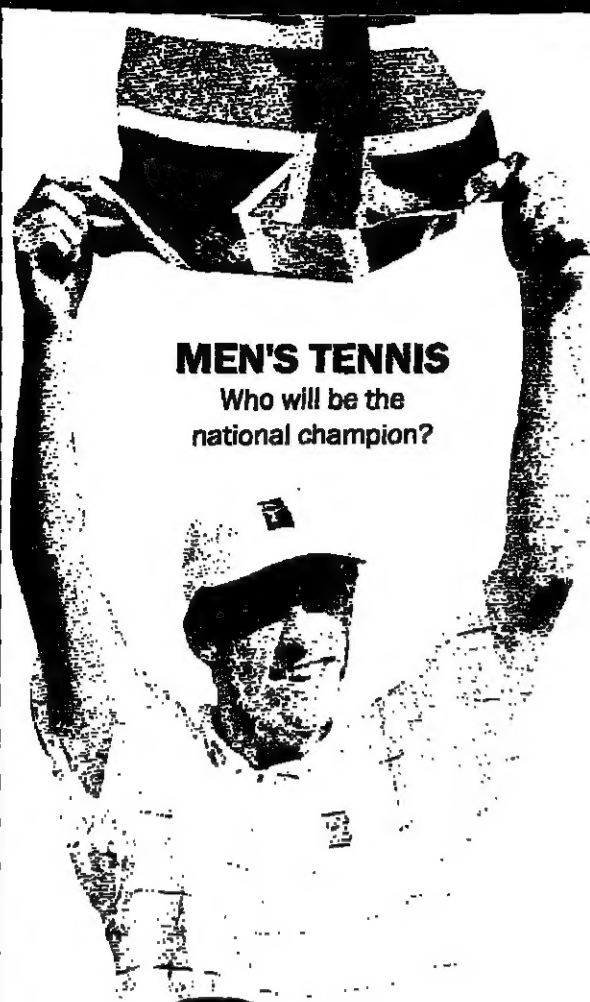


THE TIMES
ON MONDAY

MEN'S TENNIS

Who will be the
national champion?...AND
REAL TENNISRachel
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Johnston
on the sport
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The return
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Angry Tories demand £126,000 a year

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
AND JAMES LANDALE

TORY MPs called for a salary of £126,000 yesterday as they voiced anger at the pay of the ombudsman appointed to police Commons ethics. Patrick Nicholls, a former minister, and Nicholas Winterbottom, the newly-appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, is to be paid £72,000 for a four-day week.

The Tory backbenchers have tabled amendments to next week's debate on disclosure of MPs' earnings, calling for Sir Gordon's pay to be reduced in line with Commons salaries or for MPs to have a corresponding pay rise. Claiming

that MPs work a seven-day week, the Conservatives have called for MPs' £33,189 salary to be almost quadrupled, or for Sir Gordon's to be drastically reduced, either to the same level as that of MPs or to £18,964 to take into account his shorter working week.

Sir Gordon, 67, will monitor the Register of MPs' Interests, offer advice to MPs and provide induction courses in "conduct, propriety and ethics" to new members. He will also be in charge of initial investigations into complaints that MPs have breached a code of conduct.

Patrick Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge, said that the amendments were tabled to draw attention to the "ridiculous" pay being offered to Sir

Gordon rather than to demand a massive salary increase for MPs.

Marjorie Mowlem, Labour's Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night: "This is just another example of Conservative insensitivity and arrogance. It is clearly indefensible that an MP should be paid £126,000. The salary we have at present is quite reasonable for the work we do. It will confirm the public's view of the seediness of Conservative politicians."

Mr Nicholls is among the 125 Tory MPs alleged by Labour to have between them 270 posts as consultants and parliamentary advisers.

Earlier, senior Tories offered backbench colleagues a compromise over disclosure of outside earnings to

help avert an embarrassing Commons defeat. The MPs tabled an amendment calling for Labour's proposal that all earnings should be declared to be raised after the next election rather than introduced by March. Their move came as Tony Newton, the leader of the Commons, conceded that even if the Government wins next week's vote, it would be seen to have been helping MPs to protect their own financial interests.

Mr Newton, who chaired the Commons select committee that recommended against public disclosure of earnings related to Parliament, was asked whether next week's vote represented a "no-win situation" for the Tories. He replied: "You may be right. That's just the way of the

world." The Prime Minister's stance against disclosure is threatened by a revolt by at least ten Conservative MPs, enough to overturn the Government's technical majority of eight if there is a full turn-out of MPs. Although officially MPs have been given a free vote, both leaderships have been whipping heavily to ensure victory.

Labour intensified its campaign yesterday in the run-up to Monday's vote, with local election candidates and officials writing to their constituency Tory MPs, urging them to vote against the Government, and if not, challenging them to explain why. The party is targeting Tories in marginal seats who feel most nervous about allegations of sleaze.

Barclay twins pledge to respect tradition

Proud Scots institution
again sold to outsiders

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

FOR only the second time this century *The Scotsman* has changed hands. Once again a rich and unknown proprietor has stepped in to take over a title that is regarded as a Scottish institution rather than just another newspaper.

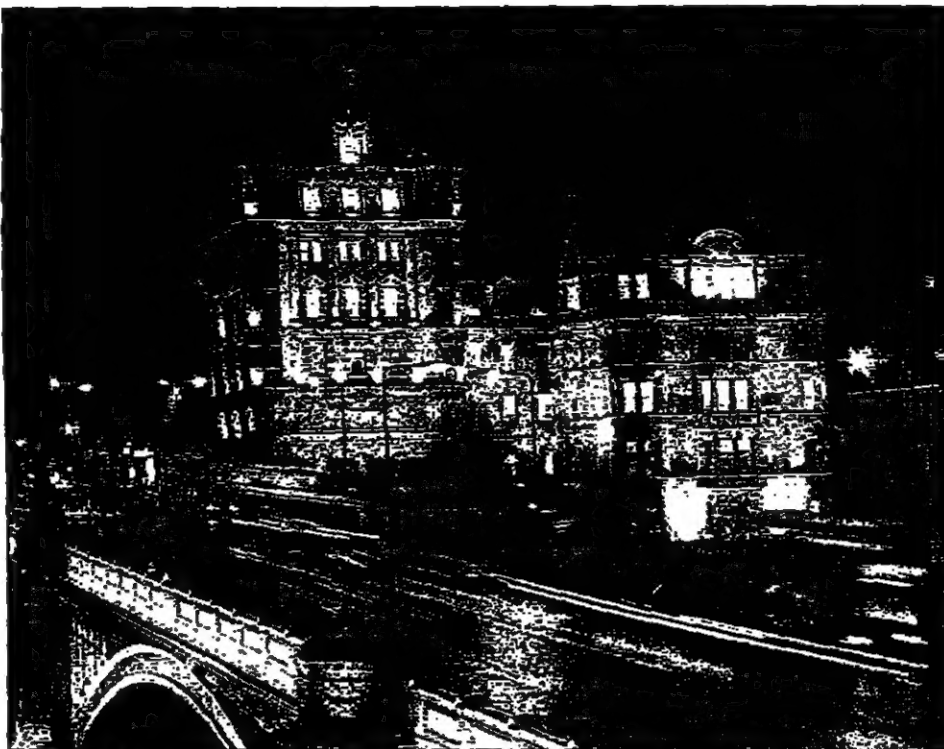
Last time around, in 1953, it was Roy Thomson, the Canadian millionaire, who saved the paper from bankruptcy. He picked it up for a bargain £393,750, which he achieved by selling off part of the block that came with the building.

The intervention of this brash foreigner was regarded at the time with grave suspicion by the citizens of Edinburgh, but he turned *The Scotsman* into a profitable paper, saw it climb to a circulation of more than 80,000, and went on to launch Scottish Television with enormous success. "There must be something wrong in this country when a fellow like me can make so much money," he remarked candidly.

Things are rather different now. The Barclay brothers are buying a paper which finds itself in the centre of a price-cutting war, defending a circulation that has been hit by the London broadsheet papers, and fighting for advertising revenue against a background of soaring newsprint costs. But it remains profitable.

Scotsman Publications, which includes the *Evening News*, *Scotland on Sunday*, and some free-sheet papers, all based in Edinburgh, made £9 million on a £45 million turnover in its last financial year. It still has a circulation of 80,000 and, with a high proportion of ABC1 readers, has an enviable advertising profile. That may explain the price the Barclays had to pay, believed to be at least £100 million. Even in real terms that is more than Roy Thomson could ever have contemplated.

The Barclay brothers have promised to respect the traditions of the paper. They will have also to decide on the future of a building that is a throwback to a long-vanished newspaper era. Built around the turn of the century, it is a



The headquarters of Scotsman Publications overlooking Waverley station

14-floor Victorian gothic structure, its basement giving onto the railway platform where newspapers were once bundled onto a special train.

Inside, wood-panelled walls bear the names of previous editors embossed in gold, while portraits and statues of venerable proprietors long gone adorn a rabbit warren of offices and corridors. Above the editor's desk, in a room

that looks out over Waverley station to the Scott Monument on Princes Street, one of the finest city views in Scotland, is a gold-engraved slogan: "The Conductors pledge themselves for impartiality, firmness and independence... their first desire is to be honest, the second to be useful... the great requisites for the task are only good sense, courage and industry."

The paper's appeal for two brothers whose purchases have included The Ritz hotel and *The European* newspaper, is probably more than just its profit figures. The Scotsman is one of that select band of newspapers whose name is recognised throughout the world. It punches above its weight as a national rather than a regional paper and offers a similar diet of United Kingdom and international news from a base that is strongly Scottish.

Its masthead proclaims itself as Scotland's National Newspaper — a description hotly disputed by the *The Herald* in Glasgow, which has a considerably higher

circulation — and it has been an outspoken voice for Scottish interests ever since it was founded in 1817, proclaiming: "We have not chosen the name of Scotsman to preserve an invidious distinction, but with the view of rescuing it from the odium of servility."

The Barclay Brothers are buying the paper at a crucial time in its development. With Labour's promise of a Scottish Parliament a key issue in the run-up to the next election, *The Scotsman* is likely to play an important part in the national debate.

But it can no longer expect to occupy its Scottish territory unchallenged. It will need greater investment than its previous owners were prepared to give it, and a new management which can inject the kind of energy and innovation that will enable it to compete with rival newspapers that have shown every sign of giving it a run for its money.

Magnus Linklater was Editor of *The Scotsman* 1988-94

Barclays buy papers, page 1

Ancram holds out
over IRA arms

The Government rejected demands last night from Sinn Féin to call immediate all-party talks. Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, told the party during talks at Stormont that the IRA would have to begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Féin could join full talks.

Mr Ancram said afterwards that Sinn Féin's proposals, drawn up with the Social Democratic and Labour Party, were unacceptable because they called for the Government to fix a date, rather than a target date, for all-party talks. They also wanted an international disarmament commission to examine all weapons, including the Army's. Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Féin delegation, said the Government was squandering the peace process.

Support for divorce law

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has won support from Roman Catholic bishops for his Divorce Law Reform Bill. The Right Rev Peter Smith, chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life, said the bill, which has been attacked by Tory MPs and some members of the Cabinet, had many positive aspects.

Boxer loses legal fight

A move by Lennox Lewis to stop Frank Bruno defending his World Boxing Council heavyweight crown against Mike Tyson instead of him was halted by Mr Justice Rafter at the High Court yesterday. He ruled that the WBC rules provided for the exclusive jurisdiction of disputes in Dallas, Texas. The fight is scheduled for March 16.

Missing clerk 'in France'

The police hunt for Gerry Taylor, 45, a town clerk who disappeared at the same time as £100,000 went missing from Whitworth Town Council near Rochdale, Lancashire, has switched to France. Mr Taylor, who claimed to have been in naval intelligence and had recently split from his wife, left clues suggesting he had gone to Moscow.

Labour identity mix-up

The Labour Party agreed in the High Court to lift the suspension from membership of Gias Choudhury, apologise and pay his costs. The party had suspended him after a television programme on the reselection of Gerald Kaufman as candidate for Manchester Gorton. Yesterday, Labour admitted confusing Mr Choudhury with someone else.

Journalists sentenced

Two journalists who posed as television producers to dupe clothes stores and computer manufacturers out of thousands of pounds worth of goods were sentenced by Southwark Crown Court, London. Quilliam Potter, 29, and Gillian Hunter, 30, both of Exeter, were put on 18 months' probation with community service of 100 and 60 hours.

Mackay backs tribute

Courts across the country could fall silent next Saturday as support grows for a two-minute silence 50 years on from the end of the Second World War. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has said that he had no objections to the Royal British Legion's call for the silence to be observed in courts, only a handful of which will be sitting.

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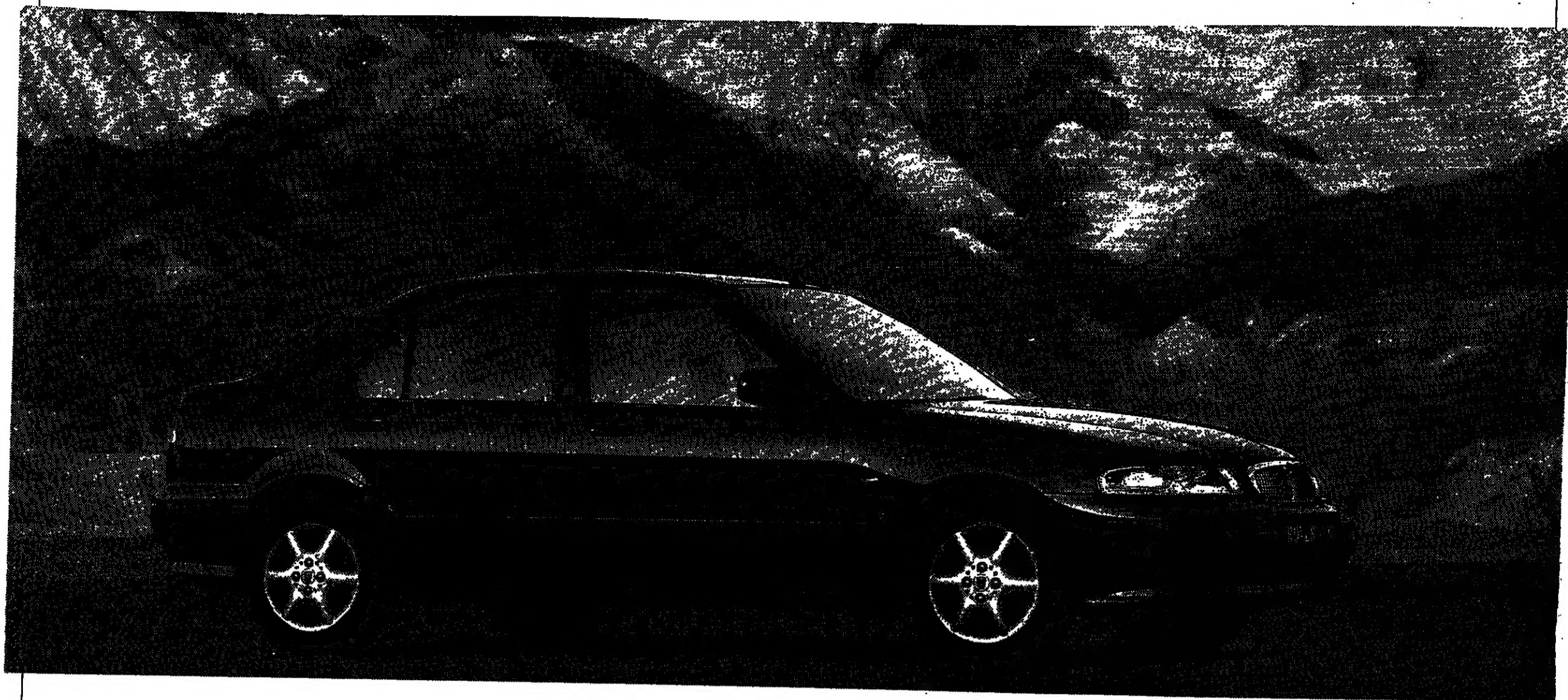
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ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

'Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival'

Ancient title rests uneasily on Northumberland's heir

By PAUL WILKINSON

RALPH PERCY, the new Duke of Northumberland, said yesterday that he is dreading the responsibility that his title brings. In his first public comments since becoming the 12th duke on the death of his brother Harry last Tuesday, he spoke of the sudden change in lifestyle he must now experience.

"As a very private family man, public stature is quite a burden and it is with some trepidation that I take it on," he said. "I cannot say that Harry's death was totally unexpected, but it was still a great shock and because of his high media profile it has plunged me and my family into a world of publicity that is alien to us."

"I face this task with a great asset, my wife Jane. Without her love, loyalty and support it would be twice as hard. I also have a large and united family to help and tell me when I am doing wrong."

The duke, 38, is already familiar with running the huge family estates in North-



The late 11th duke: a romantic, say workers

umberland, having become chairman of its controlling company some time ago. His older brother had taken the more formal role of president as his debilitating ME-type ailment increasingly restricted his activities.

The duke lives in a farmhouse on the Northumberland estate, 15 miles from the family seat at Alnwick Castle. There have been suggestions that he is unwilling

to move there. In his statement the duke showed his distress at press speculation that the death of his brother, 42, at Syon House, the family's west London home, may have been drug-related. He said: "In these dreadful last days, the press has in general been honest and kind about Harry and I, but the unscrupulous will always lie if it suits their purpose and it is upsetting to read articles based on lies. Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival."

He said that his brother had also found the responsibilities of nobility uncomfortable at times. "Harry did not find it easy to bear the title and the demands that were expected of him and he found escape and excitement in the film world."

"Despite a debilitating illness, Harry retained a great wit and intellect and relentlessly pursued his passion for films and the film world. He was enormously proud of his film *Lost in Africa*."

He described his brother's life as falling into two halves,



The new duke with his son George. "I would like to pass this estate to our heirs as good or better than it is now"

with the early, vital days overtaken by illness. "He excelled at school, as a diligent pupil and an accomplished sportsman. He was a

great all-rounder and was extremely popular. Following Harry through school was hard because of his success, and although I was in his

shadow we were great friends and remained so throughout his life." Speaking of his future, the duke said: "I see my role as curator of an

ancient seat and chairman of a large business. I am responsible for a substantial area of land over which many people work and take their leisure. I

am also directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of several hundred people.

"If Jane and I can achieve one thing in our lives, we would like to pass this estate and heritage to our heirs in as good or better condition than it is now. In doing so we will continue to expand our charity work and help the local community as much as we can."

Workers on the Northumberland estate said in their own tribute that "Duke Harry", as he was known with affection, had left his mark on a distinguished dukedom. "Determined not to take on the traditional guise of a nobleman, he set his sights on being a modern man... The key to his quest was that he was a romantic, the measure of his success was that he was so engagingly and so endearingly romantic."

Family and close friends will today attend a private funeral at St Michael's Church, Alnwick. A public service will be held later.

Letters, page 21

Deal agreed to end union sponsorship of Labour MPs

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S ruling National Executive Committee will later this month approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of MPs.

Senior party sources last night said Tony Blair had made clear that Labour had to be seen as "squeaky clean" in the light of the proposals in the Nolan report on standards in public life. Any apparent financial link between the unions and MPs had to end as soon as possible. Unions sponsor 150 MPs at a cost of about £600 each a year. They also pay up to 75 per cent of the MPs' general election expenses.

Although under the present "Hastings Agreement" the money is paid to the MPs' constituency, rather than his pocket, some of the money is used to fund MPs' research assistants or staff in their constituency office. Most unions also expect their sponsored MP to represent their interests in Parliament.

Under the new compromise

deal, thrashed out by a working party of trade unionists and MPs over several months, unions will still pay their money to constituencies of their own choice, but they will no longer be able to sponsor an individual MP. This would prevent MPs being able to use union funds for their Commons research teams, although constituency office staff might still be allowed. "We will have to comply with Nolan," said one party source.

The Labour leadership had hoped that unions would agree to money being pooled so that it could be used to bolster the party in marginal constituencies in the run-up to the general election. However, many unions including the Transport and General Workers' Union, which sponsors Tony Blair, had balked at the idea of losing total control over how their money was spent.

Party sources emphasised last night that unions would have the option of funding constituencies held by Tory MPs with a marginal majority, and it is likely that sponsored MPs will encourage their unions to do so where possible. However, it is expected that some unions will still insist their funds go to the constituencies they have supported hitherto. A party source admitted that it would be entirely up to the unions.

This week's report from the Commons Select Committee on Standards in Public Life on the disclosure of constituencies suggests that had the present system of trade union sponsorship continued, MPs would have to declare any funds paid by unions. However, under the new system, the money paid to constituencies would not have to be registered. Labour is demanding talks with the heads of executive agencies, such as the Prison Service, about the implementation of its policies, in advance of the general election (Nigel Williamson writes).

John Major confirmed yesterday that he had agreed that the Opposition could begin talks with senior civil servants in January about its plans. Opposition parties are customarily allowed to meet the permanent secretaries of Whitehall departments towards the end of a Parliament or when a general election had been called. Mr Major has agreed to the talks starting far earlier than usual. But Downing Street said yesterday that it had not yet been decided whether heads of agencies would be included in the talks.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Top Gun down!

For five days all I had eaten was a few leaves. Then, as I lay curled up in the undergrowth, I saw



an ant crawl by my head. I reached out, squished it and popped it whole into my mouth...

Captain Scott O'Grady, above, the American fighter pilot shot down in Bosnia last summer, tells the incredible story of his survival and rescue. Only in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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If you have appealed, or are about to appeal, against an estimated tax assessment, send us the information so we can agree the right figures.

And if you have any unpaid tax bills, please settle them as soon as possible. If you can't pay all that you owe, contact your tax office. It may be possible for you to pay by instalments.

People get behind for all sorts of reasons. Fear needn't be one of them. If your affairs are in a muddle, get in touch with your tax office (or accountant if you have one) now.

Providing you don't delay, there's time for you to start the new tax system with a clean sheet.

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Jury listens to tape of Frederick West describing how he dismembered and buried his daughter

'I never intended to hurt her, I just went to shake her'

THE first taped interview with Frederick West heard by the court was conducted on February 25, 1994, the day he was arrested on suspicion of murdering Heather, his 16-year-old daughter. The tape began with a police officer cautioning West that he did not have to say anything but that anything he did say could be used in evidence against him.

"You have been arrested early this morning by my colleague on suspicion of murdering your daughter Heather West," the detective said. "Can you tell me, in your own words, exactly what you know about this?"

In a thick West Country accent, speaking quickly, West told the detective: "What happened was Heather was going to leave home the day before and we stopped her." He had asked her to stay the night to "talk it over". "Heather cried all night because she wanted to leave home. Rose said, 'Let her go. I will go out and draw money out. £600, and give her, and let her go.' I said, 'All right, then.' Rosemary went to get the money... I said, 'Don't hurry back and give me a chance to talk to Heather.'"

West told the interviewing officers, Detective Constables Hazel Savage and Darren Law, that the following morning he and Heather argued while Mrs West was shopping. "She's standing there with her hands on her hips... you know, the big lady business. She said, 'If you don't let me go, I'll give all the kids acid and they'll jump off the church roof and be dead on the floor.' I'd already known that she had given it to Barry [one of the Wests' younger children] because Barry had already jumped off the church roof."

"So she stood there and she had a sort of smile and a smirk on her face. I lunged at her... and grabbed her around the throat... she didn't bring her arms up to stop me and I held her for a minute."

"I can just remember lunging for her throat and the next minute she's gone blue. I looked at her and I was

HEATHER WEST

shaking from head to foot. I mean, what the heck had gone wrong?"

"I put her on the floor, pumped air into her mouth, just kept going bluer... I didn't know what to do. I didn't know when Rose was due to walk in."

"I never intended to hurt her. I mean, I just went to grab her, to shake her, to say, 'Take that stupid smirk off your face.' I was going to smack her across the face but some years before me and Rose had a word or two, I smacked her



Heather West: remains found beneath patio

across the face and dislocated her jaw."

"Heather was just flat out and I thought I've got to do something... I was going to put her in the Wendy house. I tried to get her in the dustbin. I couldn't get her in. At that time we used to have one of those big ice saws for cutting big blocks of ice. So I cut her legs off with that, and I'm telling you I have lived that a million times since."

"Then I cut her head off, then I put her in the bin and put the lid on, rolled it down to the bottom of the garden behind the Wendy house, covered it up and left it there. Then Rose must have come

back... and she said, 'Did you persuade Heather to stay?' I said she had decided to go and that was it. I sent Rose out... with the current bloke to stay with him for the night. Then I went down and I dug this hole and buried [Heather] down behind the fence."

Later West laid a patio over the grave, he told detectives. During the interviews he gave a precise location for his daughter's body, knowing that excavations were about to begin at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. Asked by Ms Savage what sort of grave the police should be looking for, he said: "Just a hole in the ground." Ms Savage: "And what's going to be in this hole in the ground?" West: "Heather." Ms Savage: "In how many pieces?" West: "Two legs and a head and a body."

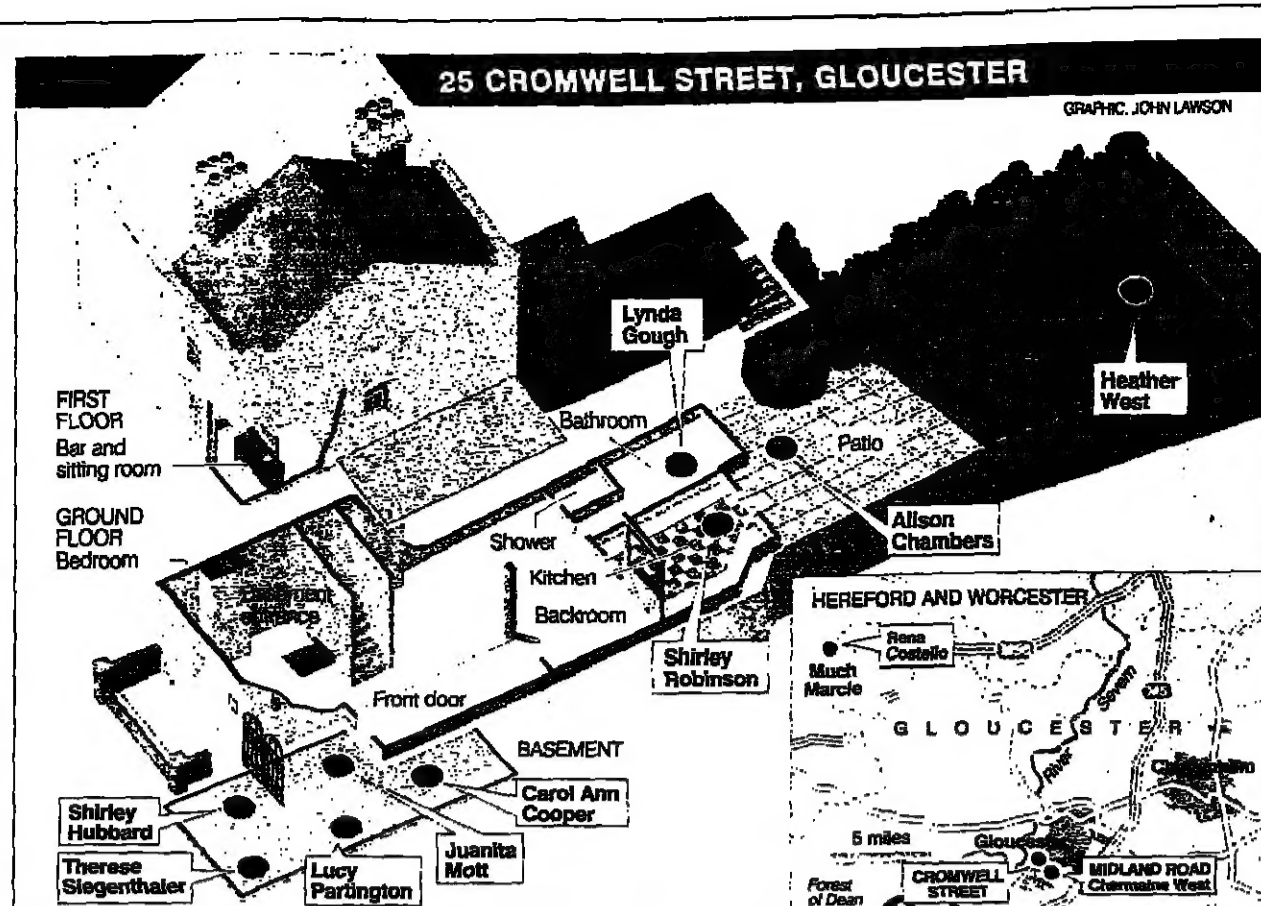
He is asked about the weapon he used to dismember his daughter's body. "It would be probably just over a foot in length and it's got big teeth blades on the one side. It's reasonably rigid, it has got to cut ice."

West was asked if his clothing had become bloodstained. "No, not to my knowledge... she was quite cold, really cold, before I decided what to do with her."

"I took her in the downstairs bathroom and put cold water flannels on her face. That is something I've had to live with for eight years. It's not easy, because I loved Heather and that's why I was trying to persuade her not to go."

Ms Savage said: "And what have you told Rose about Heather's whereabouts ever since?" West: "That she'd left home... gone down to Brighton or Bournemouth. The thing I'd like to stress... Rose knew nothing at all. Rose used to say, 'Christ, I wish we'd try and get in contact and find out where Heather is.' Although they didn't get on, she still loved her."

Rosemary West, 41, has denied murdering nine girls and a young woman, including Heather. The trial continues on Monday.



Lovers were killed when they threatened to tell Rosemary

WEST identified sites in the basement of Cromwell Street where he said the remains of young women could be found. The only identities he could remember were those of Lucy Partington and Lynda Gough. "There's so many... all these girls I've had affairs with and that's why they ended up this way because they threatened to tell Rose."

"Cos what happened — all these girls did exactly the same thing. I was made quite clear that I was married to Rose and I don't want nothing to do with them, nothing serious — it was just 'thank you mam, finished.'"

"And every one of them did exactly the same thing... I love you, I'm pregnant. I'm going to tell Rose. I want you to come and live with me and that was a problem."

Asked how many of the girls were pregnant, he said he did not know. West agreed it would not be difficult for police to reach the remains of Lynda Gough, who, he said, was buried in what had been

a car-repair pit beneath a garage now converted into a bathroom. Her body was "quite deep", he said. No other bodies were in the pit, he said.

There were also no other bodies beneath the ground floor of the house, he said. "The reason... was because they would have been too close to Rose," he told police.

Other bodies were under the cellar, he said, explaining how he had altered the access to the cellar over the years. The first spot beneath the cellar, where he indicated that a body would be found, had been used for "a girl from Newent [a small town near Gloucester]".

After being told that the girls' bodies were being numbered, he said "Body One is right in the fireplace of the basement. As you go down the stairs there's a fireplace straight in front of you."

He said of the victim: "She and I had an affair. I think

she was Dutch or something. I had an affair with her. She was having a holiday over here, and then she threatened to tell Rose."

He could not remember the girls' names. West told the officers: "I have no idea what their names are. I knew the names at the time, but I have no idea now... they are all around the 17 to 20 mark."

West was also asked: "Is there anything you want to say about what we have talked about so far, with regard to other offences?"

West replied: "No, there is no other offences." The officer asked him about other bodies. West replied: "No, there ain't any."

West was then quizzed about a young girl in Newent whom he was said to have raped twice. Again he angrily denied the allegation. He claimed that they had gone together for two years.

The interviewing officer suggested that he found it

difficult to cope with allegations of rape. West replied: "I never raped anybody." The officer pointed out that he killed people. West told the interviewer: "You even get killing wrong, you are trying to make out I went out blatantly killing people."

The officer suggested that some of the victims had gone through hell. West replied: "Not all went through hell... enjoyment turned to disaster, or most of it anyway."

And he admitted: "It is your job to investigate this thing and not to believe what I say altogether." As the fourth tape continued, West indicated his concern at the number of statements the police were collecting about him. A detective said that many were needed to establish facts, such as who was living at 25 Cromwell Street during the time of the deaths.

When West again referred to the large number of statements he was aware of, Detective Constable Hazel Savage told him: "You ain't seen nothing yet."

Murders started with Rena and child of seven

FIRST WIFE

WEST told police that his killings had begun with the murders of his first wife Rena Costello and his stepdaughter Charmaine. West was with Howard Ogden, his solicitor; Scott Canavan, the solicitor; clerk; and an "appropriate adult", Janet Leach, when he was interviewed again by Detective Constables Darren Law and Hazel Savage.

Constable Savage asked: "What was the very first body?" West replied quietly: "That was Rena." It happened, he said, after Rena came to collect Charmaine. "That is exactly true. My main problem was Rose in finding out what was going on."

Rena had threatened Rosemary, and Rena had gone round to 25 Midland Road to collect Charmaine, West said. He had taken them to a pub and ensured that his wife became "absolutely paralytic". Charmaine, aged seven at the time, had been given a bottle of lager to drink so she would fall asleep.

Having made Rena Costello drunk, West then drove to an isolated field. "I took her out to Dymock in the country and I strangled her and buried her." "Charmaine... was sound asleep and I'd forgotten all about her. I strangled Rena, dug the hole, cut her up and buried her and then I went back to the van and there was Charmaine in the back."

"So anyway, I strangled her while she was sleeping 'cos there's no way I could have touched her any other way. I wrapped her up in the back and drove back to 25 Midland Road. There was a garage up the side... and you could go out of the back into another little workshop and underneath the house into the basement. And I put her in there. Then I buried her there."

West was reminded that he had seemed to suggest that Charmaine was the only victim who was not mutilated. He said: "She was young, she was seven, she was pure."

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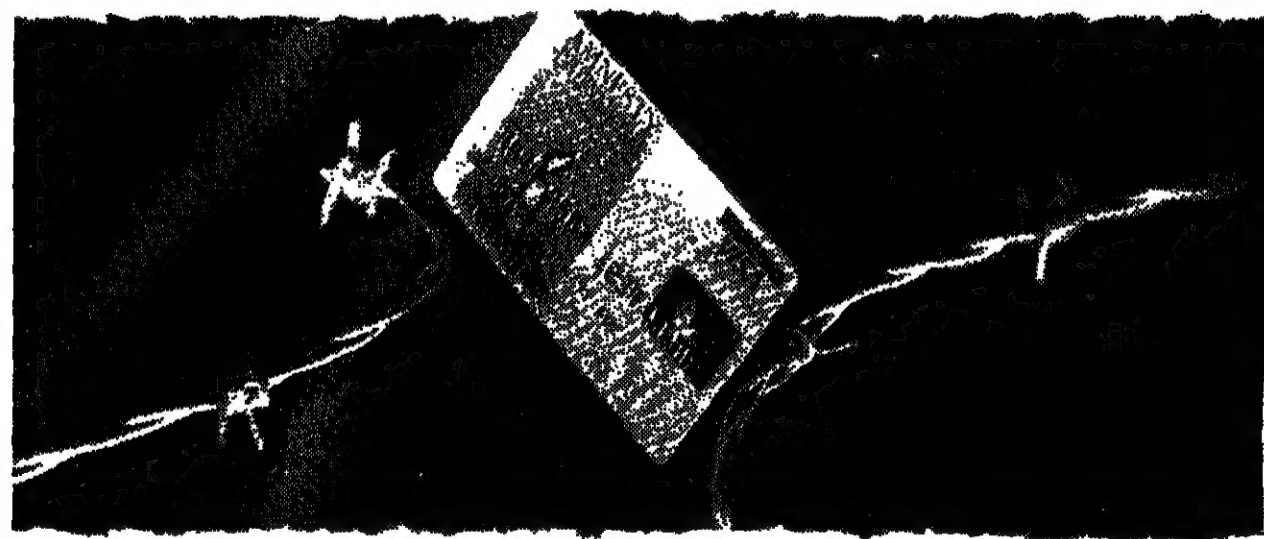
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Research shows new policy could save 1,000 Women are denied double X-ray checks for cancer

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MOST women screened for breast cancer still receive only one X-ray of each breast, despite research showing that more cancers would be detected with two X-rays.

More than a million women a year are screened for breast cancer but only those attending for the first time, between a quarter and a third of the total, receive two X-rays taken from different angles. Second and subsequent attenders receive only one.

The change in policy, announced last January and introduced in August, followed early results from a trial of 40,000 women screened for the first time which showed that using two X-rays detected 24 per cent more cancers than a single X-ray. Two X-rays taken at different angles make it easier to spot small lumps in the breast which may be malignant.

They also reduce the number of women recalled for further tests who turn out not

to have cancer but are needlessly alarmed.

A spokeswoman for the NHS breast screening programme said that two X-rays were not necessary in second and subsequent screenings because the earlier X-rays would be available for comparison. Something that looked doubtful on a current X-ray could be checked to see if it was present at the earlier screening.

However, the final report of the trial by Professor Nicholas Wald, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, published in today's *British Medical Journal*, says: "The availability of a previous film for comparison is not a substitute for a second view."

It says that in all but one of 23 women whose cancer was missed by a single X-ray but detected with two X-rays that their breasts were described as normal. "Hence it was rare to find a lesion that could be looked for in an earlier film to

see if it had progressed." The researchers estimate that 99 extra lives per 100,000 women screened will be saved over 15 years if two X-rays are used "over all screening examinations". Of the 1.2 million women screened in 1992-93, this would mean an extra 1,000 lives saved.

Although the results are based on women who were screened for the first time, the paper says: "There will continue to be a medical benefit in using two-view mammography at subsequent screening examinations, though the size of the benefit is less certain. Even with a small benefit the cost per case detected would be similar to that with one-view mammography."

Dr Julie Cooke, director of the Jarvis breast screening centre in Guildford, which is attended by 26,000 women a year, rejected Professor Wald's conclusion. "It is a slightly sweeping statement for which there is no scientific

evidence at present. His study was based on first attenders. Women do not need two views at every screening."

Dr Cooke said she had had no complaints about the switch to two mammograms for first attenders. "A mammogram can be uncomfortable for a number of women—about 10 per cent—partly because the breast is squashed and partly because for the first view from the side the edge of the X-ray plate has to be pressed into the armpit. But the second view from above is more comfortable."

She said some women worried about the radiation dose but this was low and the benefit in terms of lives saved by detecting extra cancers far outweighed it.

All women aged between 50 and 64 are invited for breast screening every three years. Older women are entitled to free screening on request. Younger women must be referred by their GPs.



Marti Caine was given two years to live in 1988, when doctors diagnosed cancer

Sick Caine forced to bow out of panto

THE actress Marti Caine, who has fought a seven-year battle against cancer, is back in hospital and has had to cancel her pantomime appearance. "She is undergoing treatment to counter a reaction to previous medication," her spokeswoman said yesterday.

Caine, 50, had been in hospital for "just over a week" and it was not an emergency admission, the spokeswoman said. "It is expected she will be able to leave hospital shortly, but she will need a recovery period and that will preclude her from her pantomime commitments."

The actress, who is being treated in St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, was given two years to live in 1988 when doctors diagnosed cancer of the lymph glands. She underwent a bone marrow transplant in 1992.

Caine had planned to play the Red Queen in *Snow White* in Basingstoke. She had to pull out of the same role in 1992, when doctors advised against the twice-daily performances.

Church schools unite against opting-out plan

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANGLICAN and Roman Catholic bishops are preparing a "united front" to oppose government plans to force all denominational schools to opt out of their local authorities.

This would include moves in the House of Lords to block any legislation depriving parents of church school pupils of their right to choose the status of their school.

Church leaders have been prompted to act by the Government's plan for a "fast track" to grant-maintained status for the 4,032 voluntary aided schools run by the churches and local authorities. Fewer than 350 have chosen to opt out.

The leaders have until November 24 to respond to proposals that include scrapping parental ballots, removing local authority members from governing boards and setting a deadline for all the aided schools to become grant-maintained unless they apply to stay "opted in".

One senior Anglican said: "You will find there will be a united front between the Anglicans and Roman Catholics on this. They are planning a strong response, and certainly parents of church schools would not want to have their

rights reduced." The Catholic Church's formal response to the proposals is due to be decided at the Catholic Bishops' Conference on November 14. The Church of England's response will be discussed at the General Synod board of education meeting that week.

The consultation, launched on October 27, is the first step in John Major's often-stated desire to see all schools cut their ties with local councils. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the aided schools were being targeted because they were already "a short step from self-government".

However the National Governors' Council wrote to Mrs Shephard yesterday complaining about the short period allowed for consulting on the "fast-track" plans.

Jack Morrish, the vice chairman, called for an extension until mid-January, bearing in mind the department's proposals in the summer for all consultations to last at least ten weeks.

Just 1,097 of the 24,000 schools in England and Wales have chosen to opt out of local authority control since the policy was introduced in September 1988.

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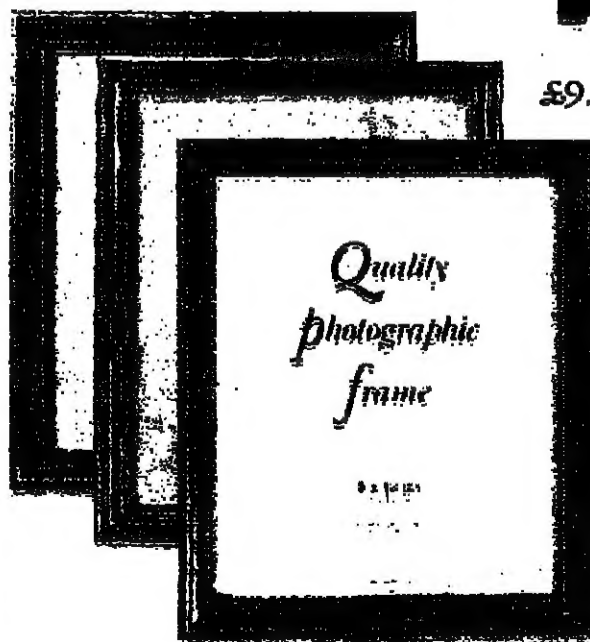
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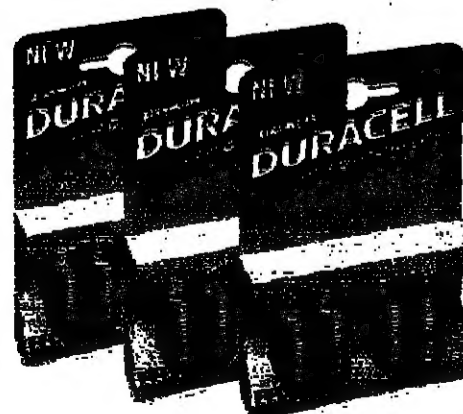
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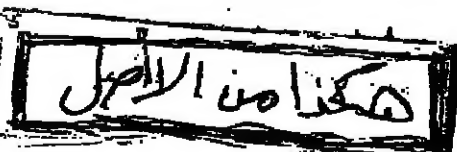


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Preacher of the Year: sermon that won the title with an exposition of Gospel beatitude

It's purity of heart, Jim, but not as we know it

You won't know Mrs Wentworth. Or at least not the Mrs Wentworth I'm talking about. But her name cropped up in conversation as I was preparing for this sermon. You see, I didn't just want to look up what St Augustine, John Wesley and Sir Cliff Richard have had to say about my text — "How blest are those whose hearts are pure: they shall see God." I wanted to know what your average Tom, Dick and Mary make of it. So I asked them — just one deceptively simple question. "What does purity of heart mean to you?"

Their answers were mostly predictable. "It means unselfishness." "It means not being hypocritical." "It means always thinking good things." But one response was unexpected. "What does purity of heart mean to you?" I asked this particular chap. And quick as a flash he replied: "Mrs Wentworth!" Now, knowing Mrs Wentworth as I do — an elderly woman of transparent goodness — I knew at once what that man meant. And all of a sudden a somewhat hazy text shifted, at least a little bit, into focus. And purity of heart had a familiar face.

I call it a hazy text because, in the dim and distant past, the original Hebrew concept of purity was inextricably linked with the meticulous observance of religion. But it isn't for us.

Hence the need for what I call a "Mr Spock approach" to this beatitude. Mr Spock, you might remember, was that amiable half-human, half-alien on Captain Kirk's Starship Enterprise. Recalling one of his catchphrases, I can imagine him pondering this text and concluding: "It's purity

Jim, but not as we know it!" Insofar as we do know it, purity of heart does include all those things that people trotted out in response to my question — being unselfish, not being hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and that almost indefinable something extra the Mrs Wentworths of this world possess.

Many of us will be familiar with John Keble's sung version of this beatitude: "Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God. The secret of the Lord is theirs..." The Mrs Wentworths do seem to have been let into a sort of secret. It's the secret of how to wear your successes without arrogance and to bear your failures without resentment; the secret of how to admire without envy, reproach without malice, care without condescension and love without lustiness. And, most remarkable of all, it is a secret that enables at least some of the pure in heart to pray without pretence, what *The Book of Common Prayer* describes as neither "dissembling nor cloaking our manifold sins and wickedness".

I have a feeling that the secret of the pure in heart is precisely their refusal — almost their inability — to dissemble and cloak, both their strengths and their weaknesses, so they can accept deserved praise and take justified criticism with equal grace. And when they say "I'm sorry", be it to God or their neighbour, they mean just that and only that. Not, "I'm sorry, but

I've been under a lot of pressure at work, and we're having trouble at home with our 14-year-old, and to cap it all the dog had to be put down last week, and you know how it is when it all gets on top of you, you just blow your top." No, none of that dissembling and cloaking, just "I'm sorry".

I have deliberately highlighted that example because it is important to realise that even the pure in heart have reason to say "sorry". Mrs Wentworth isn't perfect. Transparently good she may be, but you can see her faults as well. And her purity of heart isn't obvious to her. For purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't. Not even the saints, those Gary Linckers of the Faith whom we particularly recall today, would have claimed purity of heart, though doubtless other people saw it in them.

But what shall the pure in heart themselves see? The beatitude is alarmingly clear on that. They shall see God. I say "alarmingly clear" because, certainly in Old Testament times, seeing God was, at best, a mixed blessing. On the one hand the writer of Psalm 42 longed for such a vision: "When shall I come before the presence of God?" But, on the other hand, when a heavenly being appeared to Minoah and his wife prior to the birth of their son Samson,

Minoah — like Private Frazer in *Dad's Army* — exclaimed: "We're all doomed to die because we've seen God!" Fortunately, Mrs Minoah — characteristically less prone to panic — replied: "Don't be daft. If God had us down for the chop, he wouldn't have accepted our burnt offering, would he?" You can just imagine the ensuing snippet of domestic conversation. "Hey, that's right. I never thought of that." "No, well, that's your trouble dear, isn't it? You don't think."

Inasmuch as Minoah did think, he accepted the popular belief that to see God spelt trouble, where "being still in the presence of the Lord", as we sing in Psalm 42, was the rigid calm of the petrified. For, like Mr Spock's interpretation of purity, "seeing God" was a seeing — but not as we know it. It was a vision of such overwhelming holiness that it all but obliterated the viewer. So what the Psalmist desired, most people in those days dreaded. But, even nowadays, we can imbue the word "see" with a sense of dread. There is a world of difference in feeling between lovers standing on the platform, sighing a fond "I'll see you next week", and the head teacher leaving the unruly pupil to stew outside the door with a stern, "I'll see you in a minute". A blessing, albeit put off for a week, is preferable to a threat about to be carried out.

And there is surely something of a blessing deferred in this particular beatitude. For people of varying religious traditions, seeing God has always been regarded as the end of our searching. The ultimate reward. It is the spiritual equivalent of winning the jackpot,



The Rev Barry Overend with the sculpture that he received as a prize, as well as a cheque for £1,000

though this time that finger pointing down through the cloud that we've all seen on the lottery adverts is more of a hand, beckoning. And the caption suggesting "It could be you" has become the proclamation "It shall be you".

"What me? Shall I see God? I, the unkind, the ungrateful," as George Herbert put it in seeming disbelief in a famous poem. But that poem is called *Love bade me welcome*. And our good fortune in receiving such a welcome is symbolised not by the crossed fingers of the lottery logo, but by the crossed arms of the Calvary

tree. For it is primarily, though not solely, in the living, dying and Christians would claim, rising of Christ that the pure in heart catch a glimpse of that God whom they are promised full sight of later.

It is a promise to all those whose hearts, like that of George Herbert, are at least pure enough to perceive their own unkindness and ingratitude. For purity of heart can spring as much from a sense of sin as from sanctity. That, thank God, is what puts it in reach of us all. St Peter was never more pure in heart than in that moment when he knew himself to be

defiled by a sin that hitherto he could never have imagined himself committing. And when that cock crowed for a second time, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, there was no cloaking and dissembling in his heart. The weeping was indeed bitter. But the remorse was pure.

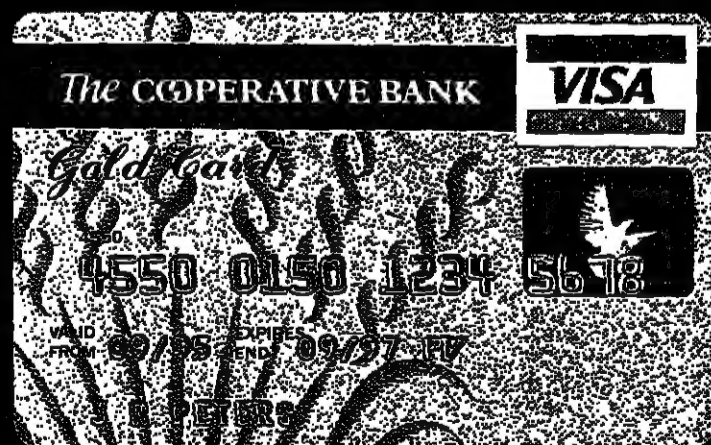
We all have it in us to be pure in heart, if only in our remorse at our impurity. Such was the purity of heart of that tax collector, praying at the back of the temple, who frankly acknowledged his sins before God — a confession that Jesus contrasted so favourably with the front-pew Pharisee's real, but all too self-righteousness.

We are told that the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven. That is because he was peering into the darkness of his own interior, whereas the Pharisee basked only in the brightness of his external self. But seeing ourselves in a shining light obscures, not illuminates, the vision of God. The pure in heart don't shine. They only reflect. They reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see.

But you would have a hard job trying to convince Mrs Wentworth of that. For she doesn't believe in God. I once asked her: "Why not?" Her reply was simple: "Because I've never seen him." I wasn't going to, but just in case I was, she added quickly: "And don't say, 'One day you will.' " "No," I said, "but if you do, I'll know why."

□ The Rev Barry Overend is vicar of St Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, and is winner of The Times College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1995

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Couple lose appeal over blighted bungalow

A RETIRED colonel lost his latest battle yesterday to force the Department of Transport to buy his home, which has halved in value because of a proposed bypass.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Owen, 65, and his wife Barbara, 64, have fought a two-year campaign against the department's decision in December 1994 not to buy their 1950s retirement bungalow overlooking the River Churn near Baunton, Gloucestershire.

In June last year the Court of Appeal accepted that the house, which the couple spent £100,000 renovating, would be substantially devalued by the planned Cirencester bypass and that their enjoyment of the property would be seriously affected. They ordered the department to reconsider but it ignored the ruling on the basis that the Owens knew about the scheme far enough in advance to decide whether to buy the house.

Yesterday in the High Court Mr Justice Popplewell upheld the Government's conclusion. The judge said: "The courts must refrain from seeking to usurp the functions of the executive. I find no perversity in the Secretary of State's decision."

Valuers estimate that the scheme will halve the £300,000 value of the Owens's home at The White Ways, Cirencester.

Anglicans join sex channel shares sell-off

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England has sold its £3.6 million investment in BSKyB in protest at the satellite station's new soft-porn channel, Playboy TV.

The Church Commissioners said yesterday that the decision had been taken because of the Church's "broad concerns for the maintenance of standards of human dignity and its belief that pornography 'degrades and exploits human beings'".

The Methodist Church announced earlier this week that it was selling its £846,000 holding in BSKyB because of the Playboy channel.

Tony Hardy, the Church Commissioners' Stock Exchange investments manager, said: "This action has been taken to give a clear signal that the Church of England does not wish its investment income to benefit through direct investment in companies directly marketing pornography."

The Church was concerned about the size of the channel's potential family audience: more than four million households receive BSKyB and about 25 per cent of children live in homes with cable or satellite television. The commissioners also objected to Playboy TV's marketing campaign, including a poster saying "Morgasms" in big gold

letters. The Church's BSKyB shares, bought for about £2.56 each 11 months ago, were sold this week at about £3.73, earning a profit of more than £1 million in less than a year. More than £2 million of the shares were held by the Church Commissioners; the rest were held by the Central Board of Finance, which invests on behalf of parishes and dioceses.

The shares were a small proportion of the Church's total investments of nearly £2 billion. Its ethical investment policy bans direct holdings in companies whose main business is in armaments, gambling, alcohol, tobacco and newspapers.

Playboy TV was set up by Playboy Enterprises, the broadcasting company Flex-tech and BSKyB — in which News International, parent company of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake. The channel began broadcasting what it calls "quality erotic programming" at midnight on Wednesday. Its signal is encrypted and is available only to subscribers.

BSKyB said: "It is regrettable that any shareholder would take this action but it is their prerogative. The channel is completely legal and has been cleared for broadcast by the appropriate authorities."

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defiled by a sin that hitherto he could never have imagined himself committing. And when the cock crowed for a second time and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, there was no cloakings and weeping in his heart. The remorse was indeed bitter. But the remorse was pure.

We all have it in us to be pure in heart, if only in our remorse at our impurity. Such was the purity of heart of that tax collector praying at the back of the temple who frankly acknowledged his sin before God — a confession that Jesus contrasted so favourably with the front-pew Pharisee's boast that all too self-righteousness.

We are told that the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven. That is because he was peering into the darkness of his own interior, whereas the Pharisee basked only in the brightness of his external self. But seem ourselves in a shining light of scores, not illuminating the vision of God. The pure in heart don't shine. They only reflect. They reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see.

But you would have a hard job trying to convince Mrs. Wilma Haston of that. For she doesn't believe in God. I once asked her "Why not?" Her reply was simple: "Because I've never seen him!" "I wasn't going to, but just in case I was," she added quickly, "I don't say 'One day you will.' 'No,' I said, 'but if you do know why...'"

—The Rev. Barry, *Overland*, a vicar of St. Chad's, *Headingley*, Leeds, and a member of the *Times* Editorial Board. *Preacher of the Year*, 1994.

licans join channel es sell-off

IRISH MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

Irish media companies are set to join the sell-off of public service broadcasters across Europe. The Irish Broadcasting Corporation (Raidió Éireann) and the Irish Television Network (Teilifís Éireann) are expected to be sold to a consortium of private companies. The sale is part of a wider trend in Europe to privatise public service broadcasters. In the UK, the BBC is being sold to a consortium of private companies. In France, the RTF is being sold to a consortium of private companies. In Germany, the ARD and ZDF are being sold to a consortium of private companies. In Ireland, the sale of the Irish Broadcasting Corporation and the Irish Television Network is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND



Thomas Cook

Festive displays bring renewed hope of lucrative season to shopkeepers battered by recession

Glitter adds early sparkle to bright lights of Christmas

BY EMMA WILKINS

CHRISTMAS has come early this year, with the first festive lights already twinkling in London and more displays due to brighten town centres next week.

Record sums are being spent on the country's main Christmas lights in Blackpool and in Oxford Street and Regent Street, London. Even small towns and villages are celebrating in style. Cocker-mouth in the Lake District, which received its market town charter in 1241, is festooning its High Street with thousands of reindeer lights and 40ft Christmas trees.

The Oxford Street Association, which represents stores from corner shops to Selfridges, is spending £100,000 on lights as retailers report a brisk upturn in trading this year. The association said that it could afford to spend more on illuminations because membership had swollen from 76 last year to 90. "It could be that the beginning of



Seven weeks before Christmas, the lights shine out

the end of the recession is in sight," a spokeswoman said. The clothes chainstore Next has renewed its membership of the association after lapsing several years ago. "Our trading figures are looking particularly good," Richard West, the manager, said. "Back in the late Eighties and early Nineties we weren't doing as well. Now we feel

our membership of the association is justified. Shoppers in Oxford Street are out in force. They are spending more money."

The Oxford Street display will be illuminated on Thursday by members of the *Coronation Street* cast. In Regent Street, the retailers' association is investing £250,000 over three years on a display

of lights. The theme is crowns and there are 3,300 bulbs. "We are spending a lot as an investment so that it's not such a horrendous cost year on year," a Regent Street spokeswoman said. The lights will be turned on by Brit Ekland, Lionel Blair and other celebrities on November 14.

Gary Glitter switched on the £18,000 lights in St Christopher's Place off Oxford Street last Thursday, 53 days before December 25.

In Belfast, doubt remains over whether President Clinton will turn on the lights on November 30, the day he is due to visit the city. The city and the chamber of trade have an economical view of decorations: the lights are recycled from last year.

In Blackpool, the Christmas illuminations will burst into life on November 30. A concession to traditionalists is a display of the Three Wise Men in an otherwise commercial show. The lights are costing £60,000 — £5,000 more than last year — and will



Gary Glitter switches on the Christmas lights at St Christopher's Place in the West End of London

be turned on by Gary Wilmot, the comedy actor who is starring in the musical *Me and My Girl* in Blackpool.

The lights in Scarborough will be turned on by the mayor on November 17. The display is entirely commercial with no religious imagery. In

Cheltenham, Father Christmas turns on the lights, which are threaded through the trees, in mid-November.

In Edinburgh, the Lord Provost and a disabled child turn on the lights on November 30. Each year the city welcomes guests from Bergen, Norway, which donates the tree.

In Bristol, David Cassidy, the American singer and actor who is starring in *Blood Brothers* at the Hippodrome, will switch on a traditional display of lights on November 16. The council shares the

£100,000 cost with retailers. Carlisle is marking the 250th anniversary of the Jacobite Rebellion. The lights will be turned on by a "Bonnie Prince Charlie" accompanied by 100 pipers on November 17. The prince stayed in Carlisle on his way south in 1745.

Tribunal awards childminder £450 redundancy

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER was ordered to compensate her former part-time childminder after deciding she no longer required the woman's services. An industrial tribunal in Glasgow ruled that the childminder was an employee and entitled to redundancy after four years' service.

The childminder, Wilma Haston, 43, had answered an advertisement placed by Flora Keogh, a teacher from Falkirk, to look after her child in the child's own home. Mrs Haston had formerly been a self-employed screenprinter but the tribunal was told the business was "far from successful".

Mrs Haston, from Hallglen, had also looked after Mrs Keogh's second child and was paid £64 a week. During school holidays, or when Mrs Keogh was on maternity leave, Mrs Haston was paid a retainer of half her salary.

In March, Mrs Keogh told Mrs Haston she would shortly be going on maternity leave again for nine months but would be unable to pay Mrs Haston her retainer. She suggested that Mrs Haston find another job and said that she would take her back if possible

when she returned to work. Mrs Haston was offered her salary until the end of that month and an ex-gratia payment of £50.

Mrs Keogh told the tribunal that she believed childminders were a self-employed group. Mrs Haston claimed that she had four years' continuous service and that during any periods when she was laid off she received half her normal wage.

In its findings, the tribunal said it was satisfied Mrs Keogh had entered into a contract of employment with Mrs Haston for her to act as a part-time childminder. It was a totally different form of service from that provided by a registered childminder, who took in children from various parents into her own premises, which were licensed for that purpose.

Mrs Haston was obliged to work the hours Mrs Keogh wanted and was subject to the control of Mrs Keogh.

The tribunal decided that Mrs Haston was an employee and had been made redundant. It ruled she should receive a redundancy payment and pay in lieu of notice totalling £448 less the ex-gratia payment of £50.



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Queen signs £70m apology to Maoris

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO
IN WELLINGTON



The Queen gives her assent to the Bill

THE QUEEN yesterday cleared the way for a compensation package to dispossessed Maori tribes when she signed legislation containing a Crown apology for the actions of British colonists in New Zealand 132 years ago.

In a brief, emotion-charged ceremony at Government House in Wellington, the Queen gave the Royal assent to the Waikato-Tairāwhiti Raupatu Claims Settlement Bill that gives effect to a \$NZ170 million (£70 million) package for the Tairāwhiti federation of tribes in the fertile Waikato region, south of Auckland.

Maori women sang a prayer of welcome to the Queen and she was presented with a greenstone mere (warrior's club) before the ceremony. The Queen did not speak as she

formalised the settlement by signing three copies of the legislation.

Under the new law, 38,000 acres of land will be returned to the tribes over five years — about a third of what was confiscated — and the tribes will be given a £26 million land purchase fund.

A government spokesman said that the first instalment of "several million dollars" would be paid shortly. Much of the land being returned to the Maori tribes was used for defence installations, power stations and mines.

Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, described the ceremony as a great occasion and said he was proud to be associated with it. The apology was deserved, he added, given the history of the Tairāwhiti tribes.

The Queen's signature had huge symbolic importance for Maoris because she rarely gives Royal assent

to New Zealand Bills in person. The Prime Minister saw the symbolism as more important than the signing: "It signals the resolution of a long-standing grievance and, as it were, putting forward the chance of a much better future. I felt a great sense of history in the room."

The 400-word apology acknowledges that the Crown's representatives acted unjustly in ordering an invasion of the Waikato in 1863 and in labelling the Maoris as rebels. The Crown expresses its "profound regret and apologies unreservedly" for the loss of lives and the confiscation of property.

About one million acres of Tairāwhiti land were seized to punish Maoris and secure a farming hinterland for Auckland after the 1863-64 Waikato War during which thousands of Imperial troops and local militia fought to impose British sovereignty.

Waea Murray, a Tairāwhiti elder, said yesterday there was a huge sense of achievement among his people: "We see this as the end of an old era and the beginning of a new."

Buckingham Palace and government spokesmen have emphasised, however, that yesterday's apology was not a personal one by the Queen.

Hare Puke, the chairman of the Tairāwhiti Trust Board, said the tribes did not expect one. "We believe that she is a gracious lady and she is following the process of the monarchy, and we are grateful at this time that she has given her stamp of dignity," he told New Zealand radio.

The Tairāwhiti claim is just one of hundreds that have been lodged with the Wellington Government by Maori tribes seeking redress for land and other grievances.

Leading article, page 21

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A starry wink from space 7,000 years ago

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN WASHINGTON

THE Hubble Space Telescope has taken unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth.

The photographs of the Eagle Nebula, taken by the orbiting telescope on April 1, were shown to reporters by Jeff Hester, who said his team from Arizona State University was amazed at their findings. The snapshots show three dark towers of gas dimly lit by some 50 stars caught in the act of twinkling on.

The birth of the stars in the nebula also known as M16 took place some 7,000 years ago, since distance in light years is equivalent to calendar years. The stars formed within dense fingers of hydrogen extending from the towers, which scientists have fancifully dubbed EGGs, for evaporating gaseous globules. The gas is so compressed that it collapses under its own weight, giving rise to the star-making nuclear fusion process. The stars then grow in size as they absorb increasing amounts of surrounding gas.

The Hubble project is a joint programme of NASA and the European Space Agency.



Stars are hatched from three interstellar gas pockets at the end of vast tubes called "elephant trunks"

Tamil Tigers flee Jaffna as dream of homeland fades

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Tamil Tigers, besieged by the Sri Lankan Army, announced last night that they were quitting Jaffna. Soon it will be a ghost town.

Its people are moving away from the advancing troops towards a rural no man's land to the east, where there is nowhere to sleep except on the ground. The population, until recently 200,000, is down to a quarter of that.

The old and sick are staying on. So, probably, is a nucleus of Tigers to ensure that the armed forces pay heavily for their victory. The rebels said they would move east to another area on the Jaffna peninsula, abandoning the shattered town that has been the centre of their operations for five years.

With their unofficial inde-

pendent state of Eelam in ruins, the rebels will revert to doing what made them famous: hit-and-run guerrilla warfare. They are pressing people into uniform because of dwindling recruitment, a sign of demoralisation and a growing conviction among ordinary Tamils in Jaffna that hopes of establishing a sustainable homeland are dead.

Many Tamils are being rounded up for questioning in Colombo and elsewhere in the search for Tigers who might be on bombing missions to avenge the loss of their de facto homeland. However, old patterns of torture, beatings and extra-judicial killings are not being repeated. Police and troops have been warned not to sully military victories with human rights abuses.

The Government says people should return home once troops have secured the area. While Colombo draws unaccustomed international approval for its military conduct, the Tigers have lost much of their international goodwill. Canada, one of their most important fund-raising centres, long ago declared them a terrorist organisation.

Charity buys slaves' freedom in Sudan

BY OLIVER AUGUST

A BRITISH charity working in Sudan is buying back Christian slaves kidnapped by Arab militias and forced to become Muslims.

A team from Christian Solidarity International (CSI) went to Sudan and spent £10,000 to free 22 children and young women. The charity agreed with local leaders in Nyamell, southern Sudan, to buy five cows for every slave and use these as payment.

Baroness Caroline Cox, a member of the CSI team, said: "I just couldn't leave these people behind knowing we could have helped them."

Tens of thousands of black Christian Sudanese in the south of the country have been abducted by gangs of soldiers, who sell them as slaves to Muslims in the north. Accord-

ing to Baroness Cox, the enslaved children and young women are forced to do house and agricultural work as well as provide sexual services. They are generally given Muslim names and forced to observe Islamic rituals.

The boys are said to be forced to attend Koran lessons and militia camps where they are trained to wage war on their own people.

Since 1989, the Christians have been fighting President al-Bashir, who has been accused of involvement in an assassination attempt against President Mubarak of Egypt in Khartoum this year. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited southern Sudan last year to lend support to the embattled Christian community.

Chernobyl closure faces delay

Kiev: Ukraine could postpone a promised closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the end of the century unless the West provides more money more quickly, the country's top negotiator on the issue said.

"We have proposed to our partners to leave unfixed the date of Chernobyl's closure," Yuri Kostenko, the Environment Minister, said after two days of talks with Western experts. "Existing financial resources in the form of grants are clearly insufficient to start work on closing down Chernobyl." (Reuters)

Petition rejected

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania's High Court has rejected an Opposition petition to bar the publication of results from parliamentary and presidential polls, which the Opposition says were rigged. (Reuters)

Korean threat

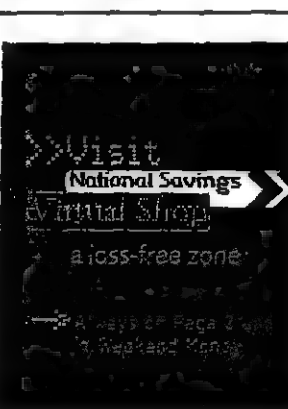
Seoul: North Korea has threatened to halt efforts to find the remains of American soldiers missing from the Korean War unless it is paid \$2.2 million in expenses incurred in past repatriations. (AP)

Cash offer

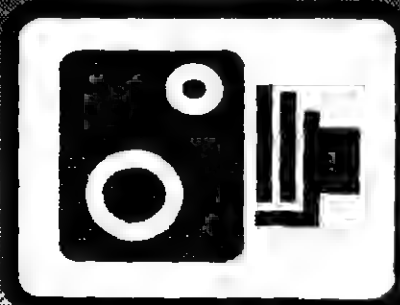
Tokyo: The US military has asked defence lawyers for three servicemen, who go on trial on Tuesday accused of raping a 12-year-old girl on Okinawa, to consider offering compensation. (AP)

ANC leads

Johannesburg: The African National Congress so far has won 67 per cent of the vote in local elections. The National Party was its strongest opposition with 23.2 per cent, state radio said. (Reuters)



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OPINION
Never mind the quality of the film, just feel the weight of the merchandise



VISUAL ART
The penetrating gaze of an African outsider: Sokari Douglas Camp's flamboyant work goes on show

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTE
Beauty tamed at the box office: Kathleen Turner finds the going tough on Broadway



BASE NOTE
Bruce Springsteen browses through Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* to find inspiration for his new album

Few British parents scan the Hollywood trade paper *Variety*, which is a pity. If they did, they would see a headline this week to lift their drooping hearts, or any other organs that are sagging under the strain of dealing with the parasite classes, otherwise known as children.

The headline reads: "Xmas kidpix delays may trip toy tie-ins". Er, quite. Luckily, the story beneath translates this Delphic statement into something akin to English: "Shifting release schedules have put two holiday kid pics perilously close to Christmas, endangering their ability to generate major merchandising coin."

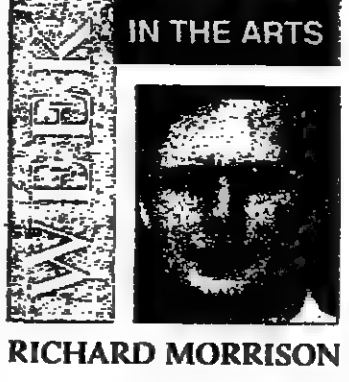
Still baffled? You really have lost the plot of global entertainment. Let me elucidate. And after that, I will explain what it's all about.

Two Hollywood studios, Columbia and Universal, have each made a kids' movie. Both will doubtless be massive at the box office. But box-office takings these days only account for part of the

Hollywood is just toying with us

dosh to be made from a successful film. The rest comes from a wheeze called "merchandising". You plaster your film's logo over otherwise unremarkable clothing, hamburgers, toys. Then you sell the unremarkable items in vast numbers at remarkable prices. Ladies and gentlemen, it's called progress. When we were children, we just had boring old marbles.

And here is more progress. Film studios now save merchandisers the trouble of imitating what is on the screen. Instead, in an extended leap for mankind, what is on the screen serves purely as a 100-minute advertisement for toys that already exist. A few months ago, we welcomed *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Last week it was a scintillating *jeu d'esprit* called *Mortal Kombat* (love the spelling!), based on a video game.



RICHARD MORRISON

IN THE ARTS

sledge-dogs notwithstanding. So they pushed their release dates back a month. Disaster! Now their merchandisers are frantically warning them that this date is too close to Christmas to allow the requisite amount of mercantile trip to be sold. One can understand the shopkeepers' alarm. Would you want 90,000 unsold replicas of an heroic sledge-dog?

attractive scarlet streaks on your anorak. But I do wish that these family blockbusters weren't released so often, each one rendering the previous merchandise obsolete in the eyes of your offspring.

I look round our own house. Good grief, it's like some bizarre time-capsule evoking Late 20th-Century Trash Culture. We should seal it (perhaps we could get an Arts Council grant?) and decree that it is opened by archaeologists in the year 3000. They could then sift through the junk like geologists probing the Earth's crust.

world last year — would shower down from shelves, each one bearing the reassuring guarantee that it is the official product of the "World Pop Corporation", and not just any old plastic rubbish.

Jurassic Park mugs; *Aladdin* swords that light up; *Lion King* playsets; *Gladiators* puppets... all would be uncovered, bearing witness to the intellectual life of 1990s Child. And, of course, to the gullible, weak-willed nature of 1990s Parent.

This month's essential purchase is "Baywatch Barbie", a blonde dolly equipped with her own red swimsuit and everything that bulges inside it. Well, I am not averse to having a few replicas of Pamela Anderson around the house. But this doll is a mere two inches wide. That seems a very ungenerous tribute to the most voluptuous icon of our age.

Still, I understand that Baywatch Barbie does come with a plastic dolphin that actually talks. No home is complete without one.

Where giants walk in Africa

Like many expatriates, the sculptor Sokari Douglas Camp likes to have those odd touches about the house to remind her of home. Sit in her south London living room and you are dwarfed by two steel palm trees that soar through the atrium — one so tall that it was once sent home in disgrace from a South Bank exhibition because it threatened to dislodge the roof of the Festival Hall.

Magnificent though they be, on the day I visited the palms were heavily upstaged by eight Africans from hell: massive grotesque figures destined for Douglas Camp's exhibition, *Play And Display*, at the Museum of Mankind. The most un-African element in the room is a steel sculpture entitled *Rose and Vi*, two geriatrics complete with shopping trolley, their class characterised by plastic rain-hats and remedial shoes. Douglas Camp is fascinated

Nigeria's top sculptor has had a life as vivid as her art, says Ros Drinkwater

by the minutiae of human behaviour, its styles and mannerisms. *Rose and Vi* is part of a four-year long observation of her south London neighbours, with what one critic described as "the penetrating gaze of the unrepentant African outsider."

Douglas Camp was born the fifth child of the third wife (papa eventually clocked up 15) of a fisherman and Kalabari chief on the island of Buguma in southeast Nigeria. Had it not been for her mother's entrepreneurial spirit, she might still be in the mangrove swamps. "Nigerian women

are great entrepreneurs," she explains. "Mother put all her children through school on the profits of palm-oil sales."

Aged three, she went to live with her schoolteacher sister, who had married an English anthropologist. When the sister died in childbirth, she remained with her brother-in-law, who sent her, at the age of eight, to an Oxford boarding school. She took the culture change in her stride, although she still shudders at the memory of the first time she ate grouse.

Not until adolescence did the question of race arise. "By then I was at Darrington Hall School and very consciousness of my 'difference'," she says. "I had no role models: a pretty girl had a pink complexion and a rosebud mouth." Worse was to come. Sent to a Yorkshire comprehensive on a short-term student-exchange scheme, she was chased by skinheads. "Every other person seemed to tell me to have a bath. Funny people, I thought. I had a bath this morning. Then the penny dropped."



Sokari Douglas Camp wearing Kalabari tribal dress with three of her huge sculptures

guardians of the islands. Her aim is to correct deep-rooted European misconceptions of African art. "There are vast aesthetic differences in what we appreciate and what Westerners appreciate," she says. "I had to come to terms with that all through my art education. The Kalabari people have no awareness of art in the Western sense. Intelligent though she was, my mother never managed to grasp the principle of perspective. For my own part, muddy in Western art always foxed me. It seemed so

alien: most of the time you see people with clothes on, and I like familiar sights."

Douglas Camp feels that African art seen in the West loses a great deal because it is filtered through Western perceptions of taste. "The original idea for this exhibition was that I should take the objects in the Museum of Mankind as my starting point, but I found myself overwhelmed by all these masks — they can't begin to tell the full story. The full story is all about spirit and sacrifice; power, fear and won-

der: costume, stance and colour. You can't express that with a disembodied head."

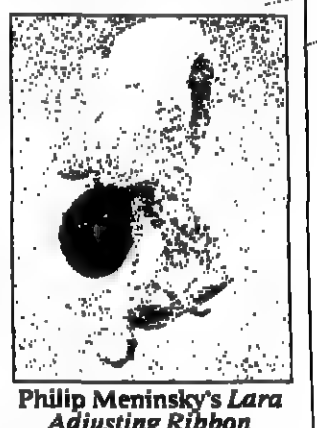
True to Douglas Camp's comments on the culture clash, the Museum of Mankind declined to use one of her figures on the poster lest the overt sexuality of its rolling-pin breasts offend public taste, and, heaven forbid, incite graffiti. After all, this is England. Something, alas, Douglas Camp is not likely to forget.

● *Play And Display*, *Masquerades of Southern Nigeria* is at the Museum of Mankind until March

BASE NOTES

THE National Theatre's New York transfer of Jean Cocteau's *Les Parents Terribles*, renamed *Indiscretions* for its Broadway run, has its last performance today after a disappointing show at the box office. Despite a cast headed by Kathleen Turner and Roger Rees, and a record nine Tony nominations last June, the show's audiences have been declining through the summer and autumn.

ations from *The Grapes Of Wrath*. Springsteen will support the LP on his first-ever solo acoustic tour, with British dates to be announced shortly.



Philip Meninsky's Lara Adjusting Ribbon

● **MAJOR** cast changes have been announced for the West End production of *Oliver!* at the Palladium. From November 13, Joe McGann will take over as Bill Sikes. Then in January Ruthie Henshall joins the cast as Nancy.

spent hours with the company in class and in rehearsal. The results will be on show at the Dillon Gallery, London SW13 (0181-288 9338), from Friday.

● **BRUCE** Springsteen has turned to the novelist John Steinbeck for inspiration in writing his forthcoming new album, *The Ghost Of Tom Joad*. Recorded in his home studio, its 12 songs are said to offer modern-day perspectives on characters and situ-

● THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the release of Carole King's seminal LP *Tapestry* is to be marked with a tribute album, *Tapestry Revisited*, on which each of the original tracks is covered by a famous King fan — Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, Etta James and Amy Grant among them.

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BOTOVIC, WILLIAM DAZLEY, LONDON CHORAL SOC.
BARBARA BONNEY soprano, MATTHEW GORME baritone,
BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA, JAMES LOCKHART cond.
£7.50, £11.50, £15.50, £19.50, £23.50, £25.50

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in aid of NAGS (National Association of Battered Women)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CONCERT
50 YEARS ON

LONDON Festival Orchestra/Ross Pople
Goldsmiths Choral Union, London Concert Choir
Deborah York Soprano, Nicholas Geddes Bass
FAURE Requiem
Copland Fantasia for the Common Man
Sibelius Finlandia, Barber Adagio for Strings
Borodin Polovtsian Dances
Elgar "Waltz" from Enigma Variations
& Pomp & Circumstance March No 1
Box Office: 0171 589 8212 CC Hotline: 0171 312 1995

Barbican Centre
Sat 4 Nov 8.00pm

The Four Seasons
Hansel Festival Orchestra
Ian Watson conductor, Daniel Hope violin
Handel Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Albinoni Adagio
Pachelbel Canon, Handel Suite from the Water Music
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WIGMORE HALL
Box Office/CC 0171 638 8891

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Fireworks, riches and sparklers

James Bartholomew on Prince Jefri, the new owner of Asprey

I confess I have always had a soft spot for Prince Jefri, the man who is now buying Asprey. When I was researching a book about his brother, the Sultan of Brunei, I used to be very glad of the way Prince Jefri made an appearance in front of my hotel every day.

In my lonely room, I used to know he was on his way when I heard the sound of sirens whining over the otherwise dead-as-a-door-nail town that is the capital of Brunei.

I went to the window and saw two motorcycle outriders racing forward at far greater speed than any other traffic. Closely behind, snapping at their heels, darted the dark form of an all-black Porsche driven by the speed-loving Prince. And lumbering behind came a limousine, containing his security men, no doubt.

This twice-daily screech was an entertainment, partly because Brunei is one of the duller places on earth, and partly because Prince Jefri is a wonderfully dashing, anachronistic figure. He should be in an Evelyn Waugh novel. It is too lovely to believe that he really exists in the 1990s.

He is awesomely rich. He is decidedly good-looking. Even his best friends would not

The party explosions prompted a neighbour to call the police

confuse him with a rocket scientist. But he does like to have fun. He likes — not necessarily in this order — gold, fast cars, young women, high-heeled boots, designer clothes, polo, and parties. These days they do not make many chaps like this who can also, if it takes their fancy, buy up a luxury store in Bond Street.

His wealth is entirely due to the fact that his family happens to be the ruling dynasty of a tiny country on whose coastline an enormous quantity of oil and gas has been discovered. His brother is a Sultan. Jefri himself is the Finance Minister. Ruling Brunei is a family business. There was an attempt to introduce democracy a few decades ago but British soldiers put an end to that. So Jefri remains the brother of one of the very last absolute monarchs.

Stories of his appetite for enjoying his wealth are so many that it is hard to know which to choose. His fun is not over sophisticated but then that is not the nature of fun. His most recent extravagance was hiring Rod Stewart to sing at a party for one of his children. But my favourite story about Prince Jefri is more topical considering that November the Fifth is tomorrow. It concerns his delight in discovering fireworks.

He was so thrilled by them that he decided that a once-a-year series of explosions on Guy Fawkes night was not enough. Nor did he think the fireworks available in ordinary shops were sufficiently substantial. So he contacted Brocks, a manufacturer of fireworks, and asked for large, commercial-size fireworks.

One night these were prepared in drain-size launchers in the garden of his Hampstead Garden Suburb home in north London. The display was, of course, utterly spectacular. So spectacular, in fact, that a wealthy and important

Arab gentleman living close by thought that some terrorist group was attacking him and that his very life was in danger. In panic, he called the police.

Nothing could be more natural than that someone like Prince Jefri should want to buy Asprey. It will be rather like buying the local grocer who has been supplying his family for decades. The bangles sent from Bond Street to Brunei are legion. Jefri's sister-in-law, Queen Mariam (a former airline hostess), used to dish out Asprey watches to people who came to play badminton at her palace.

Asprey is just right for the Prince. It is lowbrow but glamorous. Who can forget that triumph of the jeweller's art as perpetrated by Asprey: the silver-gilt sculpture of a toasted, triple-decker egg sandwich? More recently the front hall has been decorated by the juke box to end all juke boxes — retro-style and gold-plated at the tempting price of £285,000. It might sound awful but I assure you that the exuberance of its vulgarity is a delight.

As to whether Prince Jefri can make a success of Asprey in the business sense, that is another matter. Asprey has

been in difficulties of late. Losses have followed the tremendous profits it made in the 1980s. Back in 1986, the management gave warning that the high level of profitability could not go on. But it did so right up to 1990.

Then Asprey, with the excessive pride that can come from success, expanded under the guidance of Naim Attallah. It spent £110 million buying Watches of Switzerland and other shops and businesses.

This did not work out. The new acquisitions made losses. Asprey itself continued to make profits but not as much as before. The big buyers did not lavish quite so much on gilded bears and diamond-encrusted, miniature dinosaurs. The share price slumped. And so, arguably, the Prince is not picking up a bargain.

But whether or not the Prince can lead the company back to recovery and renewed success is a very open question. He apparently has the idea that the Asprey brand name could be exploited around the world. This is surely true.

But exploiting brand names is not a new game. There are now hundreds of companies trying to do the same sort of thing after the famous early successes of Dunhill, Gucci and others. To succeed takes considerable business skills. Much, then, will depend on the new managing director, Ian Dahl, who has previous experience of working for Marks & Spencer.

There is the possibility, then, that the Prince will not make a great profit on his shareholding, but that he would have done better to take his £200 million plus along to the local building society and put it safely on deposit. Still, that would have been less entertaining for the public. And for him, no fun at all.

After years of separatist strife, Anne McElvoy finds that the guns are falling silent

The sex war retreat

The future of politically incorrect humour is under threat. Not from the barmaids who took their employer to court for allowing Bernard Manning to indulge his famously insensitive humour in their presence, nor from the ever tighter definitions of what constitutes verbal sexual harassment. The real problem is the steady disappearance of its prime targets. Political correctness is on the wane in Britain.

If you were wondering what has become of the black, one-legged lesbian of stand-up comedian lore, she was probably not to be found at last week's meeting in Camden to discuss the future of the threatened Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group. Only 20 people turned up. The institution may well follow its sibling organisations — Lesbian Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Support for Lesbians with Long Illnesses and Disabilities and the Italian Lesbian Group — into extinction.

The members as usual blame "lack of resources" for the decline of their post-war, although had the good grace to admit: "We got the reputation of being pathetic. It was known as the sort of place where you went if you had problems."

This might lead us to suppose that black, abused, disabled and Italian lesbians no longer have any problems, which is surely not the case. They have their share of griefs and joys like human beings of any sexual

orientation. It is just that they no longer seek solace in such numbers in miserable council premises. Perhaps they have discovered that friends are less likely to be poorly resourced than municipal groups because true support and support are not commodities which can be bought and allocated centrally, and that a cheerful night out is more likely to lift the spirits than a stint at a woebegone support group.

The fate of Camden's lesbians mirrors a wider shift from the margins to the mainstream among groups who, until recently, prided themselves on wanting to be alone with their own narrowly defined sort. The tide of separatism, based around gender exclusivity or sexual orientation, seems to be turning fast. Virago, which traditionally included on its frontispiece the literary health-warning "Virago is a feminist publishing house", has admitted its first male author. Afflicted by a slump in sales and a reputation for recycling elderly novels by women authors who were not even good first time round, it has been sold off to the mainstream Little, Brown.

How things have changed since my own university days in the mid-1980s, where the aspiring woman's CV

consisted of being women's officer in the student union and chairing a committee on sexual harassment in the hope of one day securing a job at Virago. Curious about the fate of Men Against Sexism and the Feminist Theory Reading Group, which had been revered organisations at my Oxford college, I called up the president of the Junior Common Room. He sounded puzzled. "I've never heard of them," he said. "We don't have a big divide between women's and men's interests in the college." It impressed me that he spoke as if this harmonious existence were the natural order of things. The days when the Men Against Sexism group met to beat their breasts about how guilty they felt for desiring women had passed out of student folk-memory.

I cannot help thinking that the decline in separatist enterprises, informed by a mixture of self-pity and aggression, is a positive feature of the gentler social climate of the Major years. The ideological polarities of Margaret Thatcher's reign pervaded every area of our thinking and set up antagonisms and divisions where none need have existed. Irrespective of political persuasion, we

were all Thatcher's children in that we defined ourselves by being pro this or anti that, and were accepted or rejected from social groups and alliances on that basis. Group-rights went unquestioned, individual opinions or pick-and-mix politics à la Tony Blair unthinkable.

This was a pallid, middle-class version of the Leninist concept of struggle. The statement of Virago's founders read: "It is only when women start to organise in large numbers that we become a political force and move forwards towards the possibility of a truly democratic society." They appeared to have swallowed *State and Revolution* whole. All they did was substitute women for the oppressed proletariat.

The irony is that despite Margaret Thatcher's role as chief monster in the eyes of group rights campaigners, they thrived best under her. The very idea of a "support group", previously reserved for empathising with the plight of the downtrodden in faraway places, was popularised at home during the miners' strike and then applied to just about any group who felt that they needed the warmth of the herd. You cannot, with the most paranoid will in the world, feel that you need much group support faced

with the terrors of John Major.

Watching the solemn, proud faces gathered at Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March in Washington last month brought home to me how different things are in America, where race rather than gender currently holds the trump card in the separatist game. Farrakhan demonstrated that however flawed and wild his rhetoric, he could command that sense of irrational belonging which makes people define their entire political and social consciousness through a single characteristic — in this case, skin colour.

Angela Davis, ur-feminist campaigner who is, herself, black, described the event as "retrograde politics, casting men as the saviours of families and communities". Her real beef was that the burgeoning black movement was usurping the redeeming role feminism reserved for women.

Both crusades diminish the people they claim to elevate by limiting their contribution to human happiness and their understanding of the world through the narrowest of channels. The signs are, alas, that American blacks are currently more receptive to the message of Farrakhan, who thinks that colour maketh man, than to Colin Powell, who believes that identity and interests are a more individual matter. The sex war may have been called off owing to lack of interest. But its rallying cries will be heard again, on other lips.

The Bard bites back

The Prince of Wales has published his favourite extracts of Shakespeare. We give the Bard right of reply, through lines taken exclusively from his plays

Scene one: A tavern in Southwark. Enter Shakespeare with copy of "The Prince's Choice". He is black-browed.

BARD: Was ever book containing such vile matter

So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell

In such a gorgeous palace! I pray you sir, what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery? Scoury knave!

TAVERN-KEEPER: A gentleman that loves to hear himself talk, and will speak more in a minute than he will stand to in a month.

BARD: What, up and down, carved like an apple-pear?

Simon Jenkins

Here's snip and nip and cut and slash and slash.

Like a censor in a barber's shop!

You have no children, butcher: If you had,

The thought of them would have stirr'd up remorse.

But if you ever chance to have a child,

Look in his youth to have him so cut off.

TAVERN-KEEPER: They have been at a great feast of languages and stol'n the scraps. O, they have lived long on the almshouse of words. I marvel thy master hath not eaten thee for a word. It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee, who never promiseth but he means to pay.

BARD: That same sword-and-buckler Prince of Wales!

But I think his father loves him not

And would be glad he met with some mischance.

I would have him poisoned with a pot of ale.

He hath not the gift to woo in other places; for these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favours, they do always reason themselves out again.

I'll write him a very taunting letter, and thou shalt bear it.

I'll write it straight: the matter's in my head and in my heart. I will be bitter with him and passing short.

Scene two: St James's Palace. Enter Charles, disconsolate, and a courtier.

COURTIER: Play music! Prince, thou art sad, get thee a wife, get thee a wife.

CHARLES: A college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? Man is a giddy thing and this is my conclusion.

For every trifle they are set upon me.

Sometimes like apes that move and chatter at me.

And after bite me.

... sometimes am I all wound with adders, who with cloven tongues

Do hiss me into madness.

(Enter messenger with Bard's letter)

CHARLES (reading): "I am cut to the brains."

Why this would make a man of salt To use his eyes for garden water-pots.

Bruise me with scorn, confound me with a flout.

Cut me to pieces with thy keen conceit.

And I will wish thee never more to dance.

'Tis a knavish piece of work. But what of that?

Your majesty and we that have free souls — it touches us not.

Let the gall'd jade winch, who withers are unwrung!"

(Charles throws letter on floor, annoyed)

They take it already upon their salvation that, though I be but Prince of Wales, yet I am the king of courtesy, and tell me flatly, I am no proud Jack but a Corinthian, a lad of mettle, a good boy. God forbid



As he liked it: Prince Charles gives his Macbeth at Gordonstoun in 1965

a shallow scratch should drive the Prince of Wales from such a field as this.

(To courtier)

Fortune in favour makes him lag behind.

Summon a parley, we will talk with him.

Scene 3: Southwark tavern. Enter Bard and Globe actress, reading the royal summons.

BARD: I warrant he hath a thousand of these letters, writ with blank spaces for different names. And these are of the second edition!

He will print them, out of doubt; for he cares not what he puts into the press. Let's be revenged on him: let's appoint him a meeting, give him a show of comfort in his suit.

ACTRESS: I know I can do it. I will drop in his way some obscure epistles of love, wherein by the colour of his beard, the shape of his leg, the expression of his eye, forehead and complexion, he shall find himself most feelingly personated.

BARD: Excellent, I smell a device.

Scene four: St James's. Prince reading letter in female hand:

CHARLES: Soft, here follows prose: "Be not afraid of greatness... Cast thy humble slough and appear fresh. Be opposite with a kinsman, surly with servants; let thy tongue tang arguments of state; put thyself into the trick of singularity. Remember who commended thy

yellow stockings and wish'd to see them ever cross-garter'd... She thus advises thee that sighs for thee." Jove, my stars be praised. The actors are at hand; and by their show,

We shall know all, that we am like to know.

Scene five: Night time under a tree. Charles has arranged an assignation. Enter Bard, disguised as actress.

BARD (in high voice): A whole bookful of these quondam carpet-mongers, whose names yet run smoothly in the even road of blank verse, why they were never so turned over as my poor self in love. No, I was not born under a rhyming planet, nor I cannot woo in festive terms.

CHARLES (much moved): Why thy verse swells with stuff so fine and smooth

That thou art even natural in thine art...

Look you, I love you well, I'll give you gold.

Rid me these villains from your company.

Hang them, stab them, drown them in a draught.

Confound them by some course, and come to me.

I'll give you gold enough. Will you sit down with me and we two will rail

Against our mistress the world and all our misery?

BARD (angrily tearing off disguise): I will chide no breather in the world but myself, against whom I know most faults. Your worst fault is to be in love.

CHARLES (appalled): 'Tis a fault I would not change for your best virtue. I am weary of you.

BARD: I pray you, mar no more of my verses with reading them so ill-favourably.

CHARLES: I pray you, mar no more trees with writing love songs in their barks.

BARD: Charles, I will play no more tonight. My Mind's not on't. You are too hard for me.

Each extract, of at least a couplet's length, is from a Shakespeare play: a copy of *The Prince's Choice* and a magnum of champagne for the first correct identification of them.

Hot Bath

THE WORLD watched enraptured, but the BBC's dramatisation of *Pride and Prejudice* has not met with universal approval. Bath City Council is considering suing the corporation over its book *The Making of Pride and Prejudice*. The trouble is over a map on page 23 showing the locations used



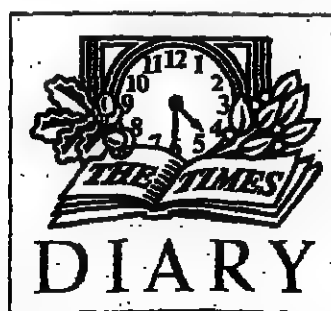
Causing a classic row

in the film. A large arrow points to Bath with the annotation "No filming allowed", and the council is livid.

Not only did the BBC shoot Jane Austen's *Persuasion* in Bath last October — and *Poldark* has been filmed there more recently — but the city goes out of its way to encourage film-makers to use it as a location. "We are taking this very seriously. The book makes us look like complete idiots and I've been talking to the city solicitor," says Richard Angel, of the council's film unit. "We are very pro-active in the film office. This year it has brought over £1.2 million into the local economy. A map like this doesn't help."

The BBC washes its hands of the affair. "It's a Penguin publication, so it's up to them to respond," says a representative. Penguin is surprised: "The arrow is meant to designate one building, not the whole of Bath," says a spokeswoman. "It sounds to me as if they are overreacting."

● The audience at Thursday's gala premiere of the film *Strange Days*,



which opened the London Film Festival, behaved like the fifth form at a school pantomime. When Wilf Stephenson, the director of the British Film Institute, mentioned the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley in his speech before the screening, the entire cinema broke into howls, hisses and boos.

Bench mark

PETER MANDELSON has been trying out the government benches for size. He made his frontbench debut in the House of Commons on Thursday night as Shadow Civil Service Minister.

But before speaking, the slippery fish was spotted sitting on the government benches, trying out the

dispatch box and sharing a joke with Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman. "He seemed to find the seat of Government very accommodating," says an observer.

Saucy

A HOT little rumour was circulating in Westminster yesterday: that the former party chairman Jeremy Hanley had acquired a pair of boxer shorts decorated with vivid images of bottles of Tabasco sauce.

Hanley was unavailable to answer the charge, which arose from a meeting in London on Thursday of an elite epicurean society, the Tabasco Club, which he has joined. "He didn't get to the meeting, but there are definitely two Members of Parliament with such underpants," said a fellow epicurean. Does Hanley wear them? And, if not, who are the two MPs? A pound of chili peppers to the reader who finds out.

Him of praise

THE PRINCE of Wales confesses to a secret passion for country churches in a TV programme to be screened tomorrow. He gets tre-

mendously excited whenever a church door opens. "It is a wonderful moment when you take in the whole of the interior of a church."

His favourite is Walpole St Peter, near Sandringham. "There is this particularly special quality of light, which floods into it and the combination of the stone, the wood, which has that slightly limed look, and the whitewashed walls are unbelievably comforting and special."

● Giles Gordon, the literary agent



"Apparently it's all about Camilla..."

who shocked the London literary establishment by moving to Edinburgh, has received a second writ from the Shell Land Agency he left, alleging that he "orchestrated" a press campaign against the agency's chief executive, Sonia Land. "I'm utterly bemused. At a loss to know what she wants from me," he says.

Royal role

THE NEW Earl Percy, 11-year-old George Dominic Percy, whose father has just inherited his late brother Harry's title of Duke of Northumberland, will soon be receiving a royal command. By tradition, members of the family are train-bearers to members of the Royal Family on state occasions.

His grandfather, the 10th Duke, was Lord Steward of the Household and Goldstick-in-Waiting at the Coronation of King George VI. His great-grandmother was Mistress of the Robes and train-bearer to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for 25 years.

Although the train-bearing role is usually granted to the eldest son, there is no record of Harry ever having done so, even though he was the Queen's godson. But scores of his forebears have attended the



George: trained for office

Crown. Young George is unlikely to be asked to perform in the State Opening of Parliament later this month. But by the time of the Garter ceremony next June, he can expect a royal summons.

P.H.S



KREMLIN SICKNESS

When leaders ail and parties are banned

President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. This became clear yesterday when he appeared on television in an attempt to quash rumours about his health — inevitable, given Russia's long history of mendacious reports about sick leaders' recoveries. President Yeltsin's face was puffy, his words slurred, his body virtually motionless. More tellingly, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, announced that he had taken over responsibility for co-ordinating the four key ministries in Russia: defence, security, foreign and internal affairs. To every Russian, the loss of the "power" ministries, however temporary, is a sure sign that Mr Yeltsin has surrendered his authority. It also indicates that Mr Chernomyrdin has, for the moment, won the power struggle that is now raging.

The best evidence for this struggle has been the brazen attempt by those who have the most to lose to hamper the parliamentary elections in December. The decision by the Central Election Commission to outlaw the nationalist grouping Derzhava was not unexpected: its leader is Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former vice-president who incited insurrection in 1993. When this was followed by a ban on the liberal Yabloko bloc, the suspicion immediately hardened that the Commission, acting under duress, was attempting to remove the twin threats — from the nationalists and the reformers — to the Prime Minister's own party which is most closely identified with support for Mr Yeltsin.

The pressure could have come only from the shadowy figures in the Kremlin wings. Like those who manipulated Brezhnev in his final, incapacitated years, they are determined to consolidate their power by maintaining the status quo. This means, if necessary, cancelling the Duma elections or so

restricting the choice that the election reverts to the classic Soviet foregone conclusion. The next step would be to cancel next summer's presidential election. Mr Yeltsin may by then be only a figurehead. But General Korzhakov, the sinister janissary who controls access to him, and those who have enriched themselves, materially and politically, could carry on ruling without check.

Yet however much in Russian politics has reverted to Soviet type, public opinion cannot now be flouted quite so transparently. Ordinary Russians may be cynical about politicians and distrustful of many Duma candidates seeking election to gain parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecutions; but they still believe the political freedoms gained after the fall of Communism worth defending. So, evidently, do the Communists. The party, now looking stronger than ever, was as vociferous in denouncing the ban on Yabloko as other groupings in the Duma. Presumably it reckoned that any victory gained at the expense of the only credible liberal grouping would undermine its own authority.

The Commission hastily announced it would look again at its decisions. So far it has reversed course over Derzhava, but has refused to back down on Yabloko. That decision may be taken today. Mr Yeltsin, who must know that he would now probably lose to Yabloko's leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, has therefore steered himself to confer on Mr Chernomyrdin the apparent trappings of succession. Some aides, hoping themselves to assume power by a palace coup, will be furious. But Mr Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, steady, reliable conciliator. He projects continuity and legitimacy in a new time of troubles. Russian democracy, as the week's events show, is still extremely fragile: at least the Prime Minister is now better armed to prevent its collapse.

BEFORE THE EMPIRE

Anglo-Saxon ideals that predate our imperial age

The Queen's trip to New Zealand this week was marred by angry demonstrations from Maori protesters, urging the Crown to give back the land allegedly stolen from the aboriginal peoples in 1840. She dealt with this hostility with customary grace and poise. As when she was pelted by a hoax caller from Canada last week, the Queen's demeanour in adverse circumstances was an advertisement for the monarchy and its incumbent, rather than the setback it might have been.

The grievance of the Maoris is one which the Prince of Wales encountered last year when he visited New Zealand. In 1840, their tribal ancestors signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Lieutenant-Governor Hobson, handing over New Zealand in return for assured possession of their lands, fisheries and forests.

The Maoris argue that many lands were wrongly confiscated and still have to be returned. Yesterday the Queen signed a strongly phrased apology as part of a £70 million package compensating the Tainui federation of tribes for lands taken from them 132 years ago. The settlement expressed "profound regret and apologies unreservedly for the loss of lives because of hostilities arising from this invasion and at the devastation of property and social life which resulted".

Few statements of this kind have ever been made by the Crown. It is not always possible to right the wrongs of the past or settle the arguments of history through retrospective action. Britain does not expect apologies from Spain for the Armada. It has proved difficult even to persuade Japan to make acceptable amends for the wartime atrocities it committed against British prisoners-of-war.

To correct the mistakes of a century or more ago is harder still. In New Zealand, the Crown has made commendable efforts to do so. Nor should the original wrongs be

exaggerated. The Waitangi agreement was remarkable for its recognition of the Maoris' legal personality. Australia, in contrast, was treated a *terra nullius* and the Aborigines as irrelevant inhabitants rather than prospective claimants. The 1840 deal governing New Zealand's future was scarcely enlightened by today's standards.

By the standards of its own time, it was a generous agreement and the cultural foundation of subsequent attempts to improve the lot of the Maoris. A Waitangi tribunal was instituted two decades ago to address the problems of the indigenous peoples and the special status of Maori people has long been a key question in New Zealand politics.

This is not to excuse the injustices of the past. But the instinct of Britons today to beat their collective chest in retrospective shame should be kept in check. As Robert Rhodes James argued in *The Times* yesterday, Britain's colonial record is far less awful than is often assumed. Many appalling errors were committed in the name of imperial Britain; but so too were many acts of sincere paternalistic decency. Our nation's past must not be the cause of unalloyed guilt.

More importantly, we should not assume that our imperial past and our national roots are identical. The Anglo-Saxon virtues which the Queen celebrated in a speech on Thursday — "patience, tolerance, perseverance and a will to succeed" — have far older origins than the Empire which has been the cause of so much national introspection. Our most venerable characteristics are the product of island existence, a common law tradition and an individualistic attachment to property rights, tolerance and personal liberty. These ideals, far more than 19th-century colonialism, account for our national identity. It was these principles that enabled the Queen to behave with such apt sensitivity in New Zealand this week.

SÃO MIDDLESBROUGH

Will Juninho shine, or will he go the way of Celtic Swing?

Although his game is more caviar than gravy, Juninho looks just like the Bisto Kid. And that may be why noble Middlesbrough, a classic meat-and-two-veg place, adores him already. The callow youth from São Paulo has not yet laid Brazilian boot to English ball — the Home Office killjoys have kept him on the bench so far — but he makes his debut today against an apprehensive Leeds United. Not since Celtic Swing's debut in April have so many sports-mad mouths watered so profusely. The kick-off at the Riverside Stadium, for millions, could not happen fast enough.

But wait, we hear you snort: hang on a minute... Celtic Swing? Celtic Swing? Wasn't that the "horse from heaven" who fell flat on his nostrils?

Actually, we do not need to be reminded: for humble pie — made not, alas, of Celtic Swing himself — was eaten in great chunks in Wapping, by everyone from the Editor to *The Times's* red-faced racing correspondent. Before the Greenham Stakes at Newbury, his column trumpeted that "Celtic Swing aces against Bellerophon — and even Pegasus".

Those who ride him, we wrote, to our subsequent embarrassment, "say he is flawless. Those who watch — and bet — agree." The hotly-hyped horse did win at Newbury.

thank the turf gods, but didn't really win much more — not even our over-excited fantasy 2,000 Guineas, in which he "raced" on the *Timeform* computer against such equine greats as Tudor Mistrel and Nijinsky. Celtic Swing... well, we gooted. Not since the case of Charles Parnell has *The Times* had so much egg on its face, although our mistake in 1887 cost us more than an arm and a hoof in damages.

But then, over a century ago, we accused Mr Parnell, the leader of the Irish parliamentary group in the Commons, of complicity in the Phoenix Park murders. Serious stuff, when you think about it: Celtic Swing, on the other hand, was just a case of backing the wrong horse. We accused him, you might say, of being better than he really was.

So what has all of this to do with Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — Juninho? Quite a lot, really, because we are sticking our newspaper necks out once again. We predict that he will be the most rewarding foreign signing ever made by an English club. Juninho will mix magic and mansuetude, creamy pitch skills and off-pitch good manners, to confect a success in which all Middlesbrough will bask. And when he does that we will say — with some relief — that we have exorcised the ghost of Celtic Swing.

Humanity versus security in prisons

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, In recommending that humanity should take precedence over security in prison policy, Judge Stephen Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons [report, October 28; see Judge Tumim's article, November 2], and the hosts of the liberal establishment who agree with him, have forgotten or perhaps chosen to ignore a vital democratic principle: the first duty of government is to defend the realm.

After 50 years of peace in Europe we citizens, our homes and our possessions are at greater risk than ever before — not from invasion or aerial bombardment but from terrorism, drugs, illegal immigration, violent crime and dangerous criminals allowed to escape or mistakenly set free from prison.

The defences of the realm against these diverse and increasing threats have been weakened and in some cases almost destroyed by legal and bureaucratic constraints on the police, inadequate sentencing policy, and poor prison security and lack of discipline — all compounded by the Treasury's iron grip on the law and order budget. If put into practice Judge Tumim's recommendation would deny the law-abiding citizen the protection against violent criminals to which he is entitled and which is the duty of government to provide.

Prisons, their security and their staffing collectively represent an important area of national defence. Neither government agency nor private security firms are appropriate methods of providing this. Both governors and staff must be capable of enforcing firm and fair discipline on those in their charge and must bear responsibility for escapes and riots.

A civilised society protects its citizens and punishes its wrongdoers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Taynton, Burford, Oxfordshire,
November 1.

From His Honour Michael Argyle, QC

Sir, Like very many law-abiding citizens of this country, I welcome with relief the imminent end of the long and disastrous term of office of the present Chief Inspector of Prisons. The last eight years have seen our prisons (awash with dangerous drugs) shamefully handed over to the control of prisoners, who number some 50,000 out of a total population of 58 million.

Two spin-offs have been that virtually nothing has been done for the victims of crime, and that the plight of the tiny, ill-led and under-resourced male and female members of the Prison Service has been ignored.

I am driven to write by the remark of the Chief Inspector of Prisons (whom I do not know personally) that the Learmont report on jail security will lead to "the road to the concentration camp". This is a gross and gratuitous insult to the rank-and-file members of the Prison Service and to the present Home Secretary, and yet another example of how the latter's efforts to reform and improve the present system are continually frustrated.

In the deep snow of the Italian winter of 1944-45, my dismounted squadron of regular cavalry fought alongside and cheek-by-jowl with the newly-formed Jewish Infantry Brigade.

Opposed to us (sometimes hand-to-hand) were the German SS, very professional soldiers, well armed and well dug in and incensed at being confronted by a few Hussars, a handful of Canadian gunners and a brigade of candidates for their concentration camps. I saw at first hand the legendary courage of the Jews in battle. After that war, my late wife and I visited the site of Belsen. I believe that I can write with authority on this subject.

I fervently hope that the next chief inspector of prisons is given a new and different brief and directive, enabling him or her to adopt a fresh approach. Basically, the post requires only one quality — leadership. Ask any member — male or female — of the 25,000 serving prison officers.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL ARGYLE,
The Red House, Fiskerton,
Nr Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr Victor Dyer

Sir, I wish to express how happy I was to hear Judge Stephen Tumim's views on the Learmont inquiry. As a prisoner who has been in many establishments over the years, I have recently seen a vast deterioration in the inmate-prison officer relationship because of the new regime introduced by Michael Howard.

There now seems to be more confrontation as officers are put on the front line to deal with inmates who have done nothing wrong against prison discipline and are being punished by the removal of privileges, such as association with other inmates, education facilities and more humane exercise. The budget is now concentrating on security and not on rehabilitation.

I can understand Judge Tumim's reference to "the concentration camp", as this seems to be the road along which Michael Howard is steering the Prison Service — not forward but in reverse.

Yours sincerely,
V. DYER,
HM Prison High Point,
Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk,
October 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Lost opportunity on Keats House

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, Your leader on the bicentenary of the birth of John Keats ("Romantic hero", November 1) rightly chastises Camden Council for its awful neglect of Keats House in Hampstead and procrastination over the transfer of this national shrine to the care of the Corporation of London.

The irony is that a meeting was due to take place on Keats's birthday, which is celebrated on October 31, between the Charity Commissioners, Camden and the City of London Corporation to finalise the registration of Keats House as a charity and its transfer. An announcement on that day would have made a welcome birthday celebration. Alas, the commission postponed the meeting.

Some two years have passed since it was first suggested to the Corporation that, given its record of care for Hampstead Heath, it should undertake responsibility for Keats House, so irresponsibly unloved by Camden. Much lobbying has gone on since then, while the house has been left to deteriorate.

It has just suffered the insult of the curator's being refused a V & A purchase grant to buy the important Buxton-Forman archive, formed by two leading scholars on the poet, because of the "insecure" future of the museum.

This is why it needs to be in safe hands so that it can be restored, granted full museum status, promoted as a

tourist attraction and perhaps profitably used as an educational resource for schools and, possibly, as a centre for romantic poetry.

This welcome outcome, the very least of what ought to be demanded in tribute to a genius who did not seek "mawkish popularity", could be assured at a stroke if only the Charity Commissioners and others realised that this national scandal has to be resolved urgently.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAAMAN,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2,
November 1.

From Mr Bernard Beatty

Sir, You inform us that Byron called Keats's work "piss-a-bed poetry". He did so but there is no evidence for, nor the remotest plausibility in, the nasty gibe that this was done "from jealousy".

Byron detested cant and *schmalz*, and he respected fact. Your third leader seems to be composed of equal doses of cant and *schmalz*, plus an unfounded innuendo.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BEATTY
(Academic Editor,
The Byron Journal),
The University of Liverpool,
Department of English Languages,
Liverpool L69 3BX,
November 1.

Stout defence of the Court Circular

From the Secretary of the Constitutional Monarchy Association

Sir, Even those of us who may regret the simplification of the wording of the Court Circular (Diary, October 26; letters, October 26, November 1) should not lose sight of the fact that the important thing is what is written, and not how it is written.

It is essential that the Court Circular should record the official engagements of all the Royal Family, including the "junior" members such as Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, whose hard work is too little known by the general public.

People who believe the Queen and her family lead lives of indolence should be encouraged to read the unrelenting demands of duty revealed in the circular, and reminded that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Not included are the hours the Queen spends on state papers — "doing the boxes" — the preparation of speeches, studying of reports from charities and other causes, and planning for events at home and abroad.

However the Circular is worded, long may it continue to keep us informed about the vital role our monarchy plays in the life of the nation.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FOREMAN, Secretary,
The Constitutional Monarchy Association,
PO Box 430, Chingford, E4,
November 2.

UN as peacekeepers

From the Director of the UN Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, In the course of Mr Graham Keating's attack on the UN (letter, October 31) he refers to the \$1.5 billion per year spent on one operation (presumably Unprofor) as "hugely expensive". But what would be the cost to us if the conflict in Bosnia spread to other parts of Europe?

I share Mr Keating's concern about the use of humanitarian aid to feed the warring factions, but this tends to happen with any relief operation, whether or not the UN is involved. What we need to consider is whether we are prepared to allow innocent civilians to starve in order to deny food to soldiers.

The collapse of safe areas was a very dark hour for those national politicians and commentators who demanded their establishment but then refused to listen to the warnings from UN staff that they would collapse without sufficient troops on the

ground. The UN originally asked for 35,000 troops to deter attacks on civilians in the safe areas but ultimately received only 7,000.

Since the UN needs to focus its peacekeeping effort on other more horrific but less "newsworthy" conflicts outside Europe, there is a case for Nato to assume responsibility for the military aspects of the Bosnian peace plan. However, Nato has very little experience of the political aspects of peacekeeping, such as monitoring human rights, observing elections and funding economic reconstruction.

If the peace implementation plan currently does not properly address these issues it is unlikely that the Bosnian conflict will be permanently resolved. Most responsible commentators agree that there is no military solution to this tragic war.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM HARPER,
Director,
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,
November 1.

Bye, bye blackbird

From Mrs Joan Atkins

Sir, We have been hearing a great deal about the strange behaviour of birds in this unusual year (letter, October 28), but where are they? Certainly not here. For the past month and more I have been enjoying a magnificent display of red berries on the *Pyraeantha* outside my kitchen window, due no doubt in part to the exceptional summer but also to the complete absence of blackbirds.

Usually almost before the last berries have ripened they arrive and demolish the lot, but not this year. I don't know whether to be glad or sorry, but I would like to know the reason.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN O.E. ATKINS,
21 Courtyards,
Little Shelford, Cambridge.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Remembrance of civil sacrifice, too

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, Many of us will recall with pride the scenes of commemoration and celebration of VE Day and VJ Day. These great occasions seemed to draw a line under our recollections of the two world wars, encouraging us to forget old enmities and look forward to a new century of reconciliation. But Remembrance Sunday urges us never to forget the sacrifices of the past.

Naturally, none of us who are older will ever forget the loss of friends and relatives in the two great wars; but to the younger generations the sacrifices of grandparents and great-grandparents become increasingly difficult to share and understand.

What is not difficult for most of us to remember is the great number of servicemen who have laid down their lives in lesser campaigns since 1945.

But it has not only been those in the Armed Forces who have given their lives. Every day we hear of brave men and women who have given their own lives in the protection or saving of others. These are notably in the police, the fire services, the lifeboat service, mountain rescue teams and mine rescue workers, to name but a few.

Might it not be timely, from 1996, to widen the focus of Remembrance Sunday to include all those selfless people who have in one role or another made the supreme sacrifice for others?

Whether they were sailors, soldiers or airmen fighting for our country, or men and women in other uniforms or none defending the lives of others, surely it is right that their sacrifices should be remembered, and that their names, also, should live for evermore.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANIER
(Constable),
HM Tower of London, EC3,
November 2.

Future of Synod

From the Reverend Donald C. Flatt

Sir, In 1986 the late Dean of St Albans, Peter Moore, edited a book called *The Synod of Westminster, Do We Need It?* At least one of the contributors to this thoughtful publication declared that the time had come to call a halt to continual revision and that most churchmen were sick and tired of the mania for change.

If more attention had been paid to this important book at the time of its publication the Church of England would not be in the sad position it is today.

It may now be too late; but the Church of England would benefit greatly, in my opinion, if the Synod could be closed down for a number of years and the representatives returned to their respective parishes; they could then be directed to proclaim the Gospel and endeavour to heal those in need.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD C. FLATT,
The Stables Cottage,
Lamb Court,
Dulverton, Somerset,
November 1.

Death of the Duke

From Miss Jackie St Clair

Sir, I write firstly to express my sincere condolences to the family of the late Duke of Northumberland, who passed away earlier this week after many years of ill health (obituary, November 2). Those who knew him are deeply saddened by the loss of such a truly kind and intelligent man.

I also feel compelled to set the record straight, as speculation elsewhere in the media regarding the nature of my friendship with the Duke has escalated out of all proportion. In the short time I knew him we became friends and he is already missed enormously; however, there was never any romance whatsoever between us, nor did he at any time propose marriage to me.

Perhaps his family may now be left to grieve with dignity and peace.

Yours faithfully,
J. ST CLAIR,
c/o Henri Brandman & Co.,
43 Queen Anne Street, W1,
November 3.

French nuclear tests

From Mr Ronald C. Geddes

Sir, The Prime Minister supports the French nuclear tests on the ground that scientific advice made it impossible not to go ahead (report, October 31). We can't let such an argument be used in every decision we make.

There is surely also plenty of scientific evidence that nuclear tests damage the environment.

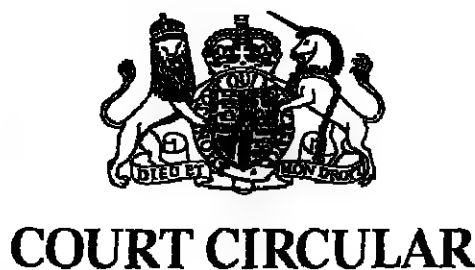
Yours faithfully,
RONALD GEDDES,
2 Castle Street, Cupar, Fife.

Silence is golden

From Ms Janet Mattacks

Sir, "... don't complain and don't explain". If only the ubiquitous Stephen Fry (reports, November 2) had taken the advice instead of merely quoting it.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MATTACKS,
22 Hampden Close,
North Weald, Epping, Essex,
November 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

November 3: The Rt Hon Helen Clark MP (Leader of the Opposition) was received by The Queen this morning.

Her Majesty attended a meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council at Government House.

The Queen received Mrs Marie Storr (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of New Zealand and the Queen's Service Order) who presented reports of the Orders.

Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard (Governor-General) was present.

Te Arakani Dame Te Aitanga-Ahau was received by Her Majesty when The Queen signed the Royal Assent to the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act submitted by the Rt Hon James Bolger MP (Prime Minister) and the Hon Douglas Graham MP (Minister of Treaty Negotiations).

The Queen held an Order of New Zealand Investiture and later, with the Duke of Edinburgh, attended a Luncheon with members of the Order.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard, this afternoon received Major Knights and The Duke of Edinburgh later attended an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Government House.

His Royal Highness, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning attended a Board of Trustees Meeting at the Education and Environment Centre, Botanic Gardens, Wellington.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this evening attended a Dinner for the Board of Trustees at the Wellington Club.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 3: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the International Council of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon left RAF Northolt for Germany.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception for the Council of the International Jugendprogramm followed by the Presentation of Awards ceremony at Schloss Zell, Leutkirch.

Prince Edward was received by Seine Erlaucht Erich Erbgraf von Waldburg-Zell.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 3: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Agricultural Society of England, today attended the British High Performance Horse Sale at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

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Service dinners

Naval Club: Admiral Sir William Pillar presided at a dinner of the Naval Club and the RNR Officers' Association held last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. General Sir Peter de la Billière was the principal guest.

The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry: Colonel E.C. York presided at a Regimental Officers' dinner of The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry held last night at the Grange Hotel, York.

The Royal Anglian Regiment: The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Master of the Painters' Company were the principal guests at a dinner of The Royal Anglian Regiment held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Piccadilly. Major-General P.P.D. Stone, Colonel of Regiment, presided.

Royal Corps of Signals: Major-General A.C. Birwistle, Master of Signals, was present at the annual dinner in Scotland of the Royal Corps of Signals held last night at the Western Club, Glasgow.

Fifth Indian Division: Major-General D.L. Burden, Director-General Army Manning and Recruitment, and Brigadier Rakesh Dhir, Military Adviser to the Indian High Commission, were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Fifth Indian Division held yesterday in Paddington. Lieutenant-Colonel A.P. Harrington presided.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today visited The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh later attended an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Government House.

His Royal Highness, President, NSPCC/Barnardo's Child Protection Partnership, in Newcastle Road, Sunderland.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a Gala Dinner in aid of the Society, held at the Mayfair Ballroom, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Lady Glenconner and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE November 3: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Thompson Street Fire Station and Greater Manchester Fire Brigade Training Centre, Thompson Street, Manchester and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Bradford Timmins).

Her Royal Highness today opened the Wallace Children's Charity Resonance Scanner, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Salford and this afternoon attended a Service of Dedication of the new Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Mulberry Street, Manchester.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this evening attended the "Glorious of the Keyboard" Festival, the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester, Greater Manchester.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

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Weekend birthdays



Dr Paul Knapman, Coroner for Westminster, is 51 tomorrow: Nicholas Maw, the composer, will be 60

TODAY: Mr C.J. Bacon, headmaster, Dean Close School, Cheltenham, 58; Mr Jean Balfour, former chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 68; Mr Walter Cronkite, American broadcaster, 79; Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham, 74; the Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, 25; Lady Douglas, a Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, 72; Mr Russell Evans, company chairman, 73; Professor A.J. Forty, former principal, Stirling University, 67; Mr R.A. Henderson, former chairman, Klenworth Benson Group, 78; Viscount Hereford, 68; Mr Elgar Howarth, musician, 60; Professor Jeffrey Jewell, professor of public law, 57; Air Commodore Philip Marshall, former director, WRAF, 75; Mr Michael Meacher, MP, 58; Professor Joseph Rothbart, physicist, 81; Air Commodore Dame Anne Stephens, former director, WRAF, 63.

TOMORROW: Mr R.W. Amann, VC, 81; Sir John Bailey, former

HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, 67; Mr John Berger, author and critic, 69; Mr E.R.H. Bowring, insurance broker, 80; the Right Rev. F.W. Cocks, former Bishop of Shrewsbury, 82; Mr Art Garfunkel, singer and composer, 54; General Sir John Hackett, 85; Mrs Caroline Jackson, MBE, 49; Professor Sir David Mason, former president, General Dental Council, 67; Mr John Morris, QC, MP, 64; Mr Lester Piggott, jockey and racehorse trainer, 60; Rear-Admiral Andrew Richmond, former executive director, RSCA, 64; Mr Anthony Rolfe Johnson, actor, 52; Mr Sam Shepherd, actor, 52; Mr David Stoddart, 74; Sir William Stubbs, educationist, 88; Mr Eldred Tabachnick, QC, President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 63; Mr James Telford, editor, Jewish Chronicle, 63; Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman, Christie's International, 65; the Earl of Yarborough, 32.

Today: King William III, reigned with Queen Mary II 1689-94 and after her death until 1702. The Hague, 1650; Augustus Toplady, clergyman and hymn writer, Farnham, Surrey, 1740.

DEATHS: John Benbow, admiral, died of his wounds, Port Royal, Jamaica, 1702; Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Paul Delacroix, painter, Paris, 1859; George Peabody, American philanthropist, London, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, killed in action, France, 1918; Gabriel Faure, composer, Paris, 1924.

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Church news

Appointments

The Rev Canon Martin Baddeley, Joint Principal of the South East London Theological Education, diocese Southwark, is to be Archdeacon of Reigate, same diocese, succeeding the Ven Peter Coombs who retired at the end of August.

The Rev Oliver Bayley, Rector, Bournemouth, is to be Chaplain of the School, West Lavington (Salisbury).

The Rev Harry Boreham, Vicar, Reigate, is to be Priest-in-charge, Bournemouth, and Lode in Longmeadow (Ely).

The Rev Elizabeth Cummings, to be Chaplain of Stockton Prison, Rutland (Peterborough).

The Rev Canon Colin Day, Adviser for Mission and Evangelism in the diocese of Salisbury, is to be Priest-in-charge, Branksome Park All Saints, and Diocesan Trainer in Evangelism, same diocese.

The Rev Valerie Brechin, Curate, Ipswich, All Hallows (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) is to be Priest-in-charge, Bournemouth, and Lode in Longmeadow (Ely).

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.F. de Salis and Miss S.M. Porter

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Major and Richard de Salis, of Owsbury, Hampshire, and Sue, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Porter, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

Mr C.H. Forward and Miss R. Botha

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Tony Forward, of Ayrshire, Hampshire, and Rhonda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hansmeyer, of Pongola, South Africa.

Mr M.M. Liley and Miss C.E. Ryan

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs M. Liley, of Langport, Somerset, and Claire Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.B. Ryan, of West Coker, Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr A.J. Moffat and Miss C.D. Keen

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.M. Moffat, of Melbourne, Australia, and Carol, daughter of the late Mr David Keen and of Mrs Louise Keen, of London.

Mr A.N. Pearce and Miss C.F. Lucas

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Dr and Mrs Lawrence Pearce, of Cheltenham, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Lucas, of Crawcock, Northumberland.

Mr T.A. Sanders and Mrs M.M. Osmont

The engagement is announced between Mr Timothy Alyn Sanders, OBE, of Pimlico, London, SW1, and Mrs M.M. Osmont, of King's B.Y. Sanders, and Mrs Maria Osmont, nee Rojas, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.R. Francis, Master of the Carpenters' Company, has presented the company's awards for 1995 to the following projects:

The Premier award for a major project was awarded to the renovation of the historic Old House

OBITUARIES

SIR ANDREW CRICHTON

Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, shipping industrialist, died on October 29 aged 84. He was born on December 28, 1910.

ANDREW CRICHTON (he truncated his triple-barrelled name for daily use) was a leader of the container revolution which transformed the shipping industry 30 years ago. As chairman of Overseas Containers Limited (OCL), the consortium set up by four of Britain's main shipping firms, he helped to develop the operating strategy and the equipment which brought huge savings in manpower costs and time. Although his eight years at OCL might be seen as the pinnacle of his career, Crichton's was actually a well-known name, not only within his own industry but in other areas of public life.

He went to head the consortium in 1965 from being joint managing director of The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), one of the four firms in OCL, and with whom he had spent the best part of his career. (OCL is, in fact, now P&O Containers, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company.)

He was best known to the general public, however, through his seven years, 1958-65, as a colourful, independently-minded chairman of the National Association of Port Employers. In 1962 he incurred the wrath of senior Conservatives, notably of Iain Macleod, then chairman of the party, for allegedly sabotaging the Government's pay pause by backing the dockers in a pay dispute. He said that they had waited for 22 months for an increase and had been working the same hours since 1919.

Two years later, however, "The Admirable Crichton", as he had been christened by the dock workers, was turned down another pay offer and went on strike.

His friendship with Tim O'Leary, the dockers' leader, and particularly with Frank Cousins, then general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, reflected his aversion to the traditional politics of confrontation between owners and employees. But he did not mind words when he felt aggrieved and in 1960 described 1,660 Port of London tally clerks who went on a long unofficial strike as "about as selfish a set of men as it would be conceivable to find in the whole of Britain".

Crichton, whose work with the port employers brought him his knighthood in 1963, liked to point out that he had started on the bottom rung of the



ladder as a £1-a-week messenger boy with the shipping agents Grey Dawes. But while this might have been technically correct, he got the job through his father's close friendship with the shipping executive Sir William Currie — later to become chairman of P&O — and his background was thus not entirely disadvantaged.

Born near Hereford as Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, he was the eldest son of a lieutenant-colonel in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders who had spent much of his own career in British India. The family's lineage was completely Scottish and impressive. The "Maitland" reflected their kinship to the earls of Lauderdale and the "Makgill" their descent from a family of large landowners in Fife, while a "Crichton" forebear had been Chancellor to Mary Queen of Scots.

As the eldest son, Andrew was sent to the military public school Wellington College with a view to his following his father into the Cameron Highlanders. But he took neither to Wellington nor to the prospect of an army career and from an early age showed an aptitude for business.

Two years after joining Grey Dawes in 1929 at the age of 18, he transferred to Mackinnon Mackenzie who were shipping agents throughout India and the Far East and belonged to the P&O Group. Originally destined for their office in Calcutta, Crichton was switched at the last moment to Colombo in what was then Ceylon, moving to Bombay shortly before the Second World War.

Commissioned into the 1st Punjab Regiment when war broke out, Crichton's background as a rising young

shipping executive earned him almost immediate secondment to the Army's headquarters in Delhi as deputy director of movements (shipping) with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He served throughout the war in that capacity, organising the movements of troop ships and military cargo in and out of Indian ports.

He returned to Mackinnon Mackenzie after the war and set up an office for them in Delhi before being recalled to London by P&O in 1948 to work as a general manager in headquarters, concentrating on the freight side of the business. He later became one of several managing directors at that time until taking over at OCL in 1965, finally retiring from there in 1973, while remaining a non-executive director for eight more years.

In 1967 he accepted the additional job of vice-chairman of the Port of London Authority, concentrating on the shipping side of the business while also deputising for the chairman, Lord Aldington. He was also vice-chairman of the British Transport Docks Board and of the economic development committee of the Port Office.

He was at one time or another a director of Butler's Warehousing and Distribution, the Standard Charter Group, Inchcape Insurance Holdings and the London Tin Corporation, and a member of the Baltic Exchange, the National Freight Corporation, the Police Council and the Industrial Arbitration Board.

Crichton was not only an extremely able shipping executive but was also a well-liked one, who appreciated good food and wine and enjoyed making people laugh. His robust, outspoken manner made him popular with the press and his news conferences were lively occasions — punctuated by Crichton's well-honed tales and anecdotes. But he could also be tough and did not go through life without upsetting some people.

Off-duty he relaxed by walking — preferably around a golf course — listening to classical music and adding to his collection of Impressionist paintings. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and also of the Chartered Institute of Transport and was a freeman of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

He married his wife Isabel in 1948. An Australian from Sydney, New South Wales, she had been widowed in India during the war when her husband had been blown up in an explosion in a ship in Bombay harbour.

Andrew Crichton is survived by her. They had no children.

ALAN BUSH

Alan Bush, composer and Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, 1925-78, died on October 31 aged 94. He was born on December 22, 1900.

OF ALL the "isms" that can be hung around the neck of a composer none has been more oppressive than the label of Marxism. Alan Bush had joined the Communist Party in 1934 and probably knew as much about Marxism as anyone in Britain. Philosophy, beside music, had been a lifetime's study. But he innocently accepted Marxism's corruption by the oppressive regimes of Eastern Europe. And by his choice of radical texts and titles, so easily mocked, he perhaps drew attention away from the high quality of the music itself.

Despite the evident enthusiasm for his work of critics as severe as Hans Keller or fellow composers such as Michael Tippett and William Alwyn, the wider audience of "the people", for whom as a Marxist he wrote, was rarely given the chance to experience his music. An opera such as his *War Tyler* of 1951, though eminently English in its appeal, was given its first stage performance in Leipzig in East Germany.

Alan Bush was born in London. His outstanding gifts as a pianist took him to the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied composition with Frederick Corder, and the piano with Tobias Matthay.

Many composers come to music through the piano, but touch it only in the privacy of their workroom; Bush, like Bartók and Britten, relished his skill — he even seemed to enjoy a daily workout of studies and scales. His Opus 1 and his earliest published composition was a set of three pieces for two pianos, followed in the same year by his Piano Sonata in B minor. Several chamber works followed, culminating in what some still regard as his finest abstract piece, *Dialectic for String Quartet*, completed in 1929 but not performed until 1935.

In 1929 he enrolled as a student in the philosophy department of Berlin University,

where in two years he mastered not only the German language, but also developed the analytical skill which could delight or dismay his students. But his fingers were still active — he gave a demanding solo recital at the Berlin Singakademie in 1931.

On his return to England, Bush threw himself into organising and conducting popular choral concerts. In 1936 he took a leading part in the foundation, and as its first president, in the running of the Workers Music Association. In 1938 when his Piano Concerto with a rousing choral finale was premiered by the BBC, the conductor, the highly traditionalist Adrian Boult, cut short the applause by playing the national anthem.



During the war Bush served as a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, but this did not save him from having his works banned by the BBC in the early part of the war because of his communist sympathies. (This was at the time when the Nazi-Soviet Pact had not yet been shattered by the German invasion of Russia.) When Bush pointed out to a BBC official that the works of enemy composers such as Richard Strauss had not suffered the same fate, he was told that Strauss was not being paid by the BBC.

After the war Bush began to simplify his style in an attempt to reach out to a wider audience. Many of his choral works were set to radical texts, but none is more touching than his Christmas Cantata, *The Winter Journey* (1946), for

soloists, chorus and chamber ensemble.

Bush's first symphony was completed in 1940, the second, a commission from the City of Nottingham in 1949, and his third, with a choral finale dedicated to the memory of Byron, in 1960. There is also a fine violin concerto and other works for string as well as full orchestra.

But Bush's major contribution was as an opera composer, with his wife Nancy (née Head) as librettist. His first full opera, *War Tyler*, was one of four prizewinners in the competition arranged by the Arts Council for the Festival of Britain in 1951. It was broadcast in a recorded performance from East Berlin in 1952 and first staged in 1953 in Leipzig where it had 14 performances. It was done in Rostock in 1955, but it was not until 1974 that it had its first professional production in England, at Sadler's Wells.

Bush received three more commissions from Leipzig, but only one of these, *The Men of Blackmoor*, was ever staged in England where it received a production by the Oxford University Opera Club in 1961 (it had been first produced at Weimar in 1956). *The Ferryman's Daughter* (1964) was for schools; *The Sugar Reapers* was done in Leipzig in 1966; and *Joe Hill* (*The Man Who Never Died*) was staged in Berlin in 1970.

As a teacher he was firm in conviction, consistent in style, clear and logical in thought, direct in expression, and warm in feeling, as generations of students who passed through his hands would attest. Bush had an ear for lyric beauty, and a feel for drama that make his operas powerful experiences. But he had to contend with an apathetic music establishment, as well as hostility to his passionately held beliefs. In the postwar years, when he might have benefited from the great expansion of musical life, the rise of a radical avant-garde kept out Bush and his like, still committed to a more traditional aesthetic.

Bush's wife Nancy died in 1991 and one of his three daughters also predeceased him. He is survived by the other two.

PHIL SIDNEY

Philip John Sidney, broadcasting executive, died on October 15 aged 69. He was born on January 11, 1926.

IN BROADCASTING Phil Sidney always did it first. He knocked the stuffiness out of the wireless by the simple act of handing over BBC Radio Leeds to its listeners. In Birmingham he brought a new informality to television by breaching the artery-hardened schedules with the sprawling wonder of *Pebble Mill at One*, and when he died last month on a walking holiday in the Derbyshire Peak district, he was planning to bring a new intelligence to commercial local radio.

In the bid document he helped to write as chairman of the consortium bidding for a new station in Stratford-upon-Avon (and which is currently being considered by the Radio Authority), his prime objective is listed as "to always be aware of the listeners' inherent right to be heard". That would have brought him full circle from



his days as the pioneering manager of Radio Leeds.

He had arrived in the North in 1967 with, for those parts, a suspect history of journalism and broadcasting correctness. Ex-Army Broadcasting (for

to a safe pair of hands. The mandarins got him wrong. Once out of the metropolitan straitjacket, he listened to the locals and clearly liked what he heard. He had been told the new station was part of a two-year experiment and he took the proposition at face value by abandoning all the stiffer norms of the old BBC.

His Radio Leeds was totally idiosyncratic and the people clearly appreciated it. He had given them their own voice and allowed them to say exactly what they felt.

He exploited the penny-pinching, derisory budget of £50,000 a year by creating *The Only BBC Programme That Money Can Buy*. For a donation to their favourite charity, listeners were allowed to phone in and have the freedom of the airwaves to read their particular hobby horses.

His three years in Leeds generated much excitement in the North and as much angst in London. He left local radio abruptly, not because he had tired of it but because the

hierarchy denied him what was then regarded as the plum post — running the new Radio London.

The corporation paid for its timidity. While the wild man languished in Television Centre (as deputy editor of *Nationwide*), its flagship radio station hit the rocks and has never really recovered.

In 1972 he went north again but this time only as far as Birmingham, where he became head of the network production centre at Pebble Mill. Never one to be content with moving the furniture, he ignored the television conventions and overcame the shortage of studio time by making programmes in corridors, on the roof and, especially in the now-famous glass-fronted foyer of what, until then, had been regarded as an expensive white elephant.

In a parody of *Pebble Mill at One*, a staff Christmas revue was also staged in the foyer and called *Pebble Mill at Sixes and Sevens*. The highlight was a car crashing through the front door (which had been appropriately prepared, of course) while a world-weary presenter tried to carry on as if nothing had happened.

Sidney rode the inevitable bureaucratic punches and was proved right in the end. The industry, though not the BBC, recognised his talent and he became a highly respected figure within the Royal Television Society which accorded him the honour of asking him to be its chairman for four successive years.

Phil Sidney is survived by his wife Daphne, two sons and a daughter.

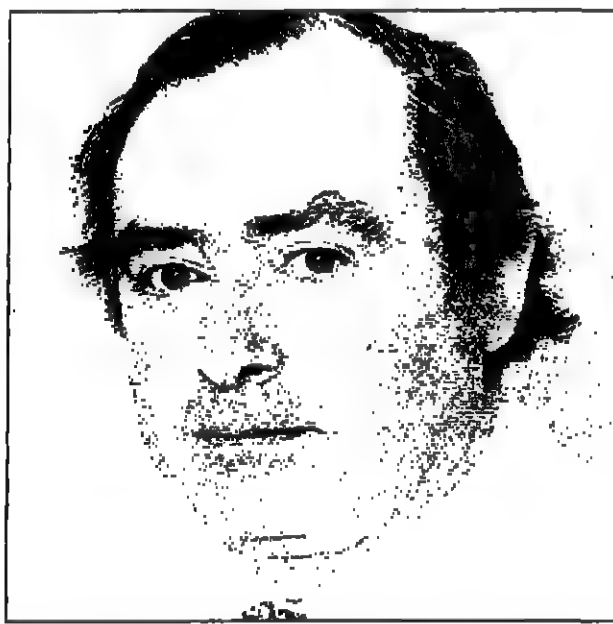
BRIAN MURPHY

Brian Murphy, head of the Press and Information Department of the TUC, 1975-79, died on October 26 aged 66. He was born on March 6, 1929.

BRIAN MURPHY was one of the Labour movement's earliest spin-doctors (though the phrase postdated his own PR career). After making his name as an advertising copywriter, latterly with BBD&O, he became in 1973 head of the Television, Radio and Film Division of the European Commission in Brussels, in the first wave of British appointments to that body. Two years later he transferred to a similar post on the staff of the Trades Union Congress back in London — though here his responsibilities encompassed written journalism as well.

But before either of those jobs he had frequently used his advertising expertise to assist the Labour Party. He was one of the backroom boys behind the Wilson Government's 1966 landslide election victory, contributing, with the help of two others, the somewhat complacent campaign slogan "You Know Labour Government Works".

Brian St John Murphy was educated at Sturminster School, Dorset, winning an exhibition to read English at Downing College, Cambridge. At Downing he encountered, but never became captivated by, the austere F.R. Leavis. There was certainly never anything ascetic about Murphy. Guests at the



prodigious parties he gave in later life were in little danger of forgetting his endless repertoire of stirrup cups nor his constant habit at a certain stage of the evening of exclaiming "Tiens, tiens!"

After Cambridge, he joined the Artley Government's ill-fated East African Groundnuts scheme in an accounting capacity. Two world tours with the P&O shipping line followed, the first as steward, the second as press officer on the maiden voyage of the *Canberra*.

As a PRO, he developed a curious friendship with Sir Tim Bell, who in political terms shopped on the opposite side of the street. They could frequently be seen lunching

together — at Claridge's or Harry's Bar when Bell was the host and at the Gay Hussar when the bill was being picked up by Murphy. In whatever setting, they were as often as not the last customers left on the premises.

A highly sociable soul, Murphy was the author of several books on wine, whisky and gin. His last demand, before he died, was for "more champagne". As one of his friends remarked, at least it was a cut above the Younger Pitt's final request for "one of Bellamy's veal pies".

Brian Murphy married, in 1955, Elizabeth Snelling. The marriage was dissolved in 1987, and he is survived by two sons and two daughters.

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Formula 1 title for Hill
Mexico City, Nov 3 — Graham Hill, of
England, won the Mexico Grand Prix here
today, and with it the world driving cham-
pionship for Formula 1 cars, which he last held
in 1962.

Bruce McLaren was second and Jacky
Oliver third. Pedro Rodriguez (Mexico) was
fourth.
Hill's victory here was good for nine points
towards the world championship. Hill led
with 39 before this race, followed by Jacky
Stewart with 36 and Denis Hulme (New
Zealand) with 33.

Hill took the lead in the first lap of the 325-
mile race and kept widening it until the end,
when he had an advantage of more than a lap
on his closest rival. He said afterwards: "I had
a lovely time. The car went beautifully. I am
very pleased to have won."

Hill, who refused before the race to predict
either his or his car's performance, never
made a pit stop throughout the 65 laps. He
helped his team-mate, Oliver, reach third
place by positioning in front of Rodriguez
when Rodriguez tried to pass Oliver — a
legitimate play.

Hill was driving a Lotus Ford, McLaren a
McLaren Ford, Oliver a Lotus Ford and

ON THIS DAY
November 4, 1968

The Times today would record a triumph
such as Graham Hill's more coverage than
an agency report of less than half a column.
Hill was killed in an air crash in 1975.

Rodriguez a B.R.M. Hulme was eliminated
early when his McLaren Ford caught fire as
he sped along in fourth place. He walked
away unhurt.

The accident occurred as Hulme was going
into the straight of the tenth lap. "I don't know
what happened," he said. "Something in the
suspension broke. I hit the wall."

By the halfway stage several other cars had
been forced out as Hill led from Stewart and
McLaren. These included Jean-Pierre Beltoise
(France-Matra), Moises Solana (Mexico-Lotus-
us Ford), Chris Amon (New Zealand-Ferrari),
John Surtees (Britain-Honda), Lucien Bianchi

(Belgium-Cooper), Piers Courage (Britain-
B.R.M.), Dan Gurney (United States-Lotus
Ford) and Jackie Ickx (Belgium-Ferrari).

By the fortieth lap Hill was 20 seconds up
on Stewart, with only five cars on the leading
lap. The other three were McLaren, Brabham
(Australia) and Johnny Servoz-Gavin
(France).

Hill's time was given by the control tower as
1hr. 56min. 43.95sec. — a track record for this
grand prix, erasing that set last year here by
Jim Clark. Hill was asked which was the most
difficult lap. "The last one," he replied.

Hill virtually had the race won soon after
the three-quarter mark when his main
challenger Stewart dropped back with engine
failure. There had been 21 starters.

ENGLAND WIN SWIMMING TROPHY
England's remarkable run in the swimming
international against Wales and Scotland for
the Bologna Trophy was maintained at
Grimby on Saturday. They emerged
comfortable winners with 38 points. Wales
were second with 25 and Scotland third with
21. England have been beaten only twice since
the first contest in 1929.

Britain's sole Olympic swimming medal
winner, Maryn Woodroffe (Cardiff), won the
220 yards butterfly event in 2 min. 11.5 sec,
had a second outside his British record.

NEWS

West gives evidence from grave

Frederick West's voice echoed from beyond the grave around a hushed courtroom yesterday as his taped confessions to murder were played in the defence of his widow, Rosemary.

In a dispassionate voice he admitted murdering and dismembering his daughter Heather and other young women, most of whose names he could not remember. He claimed he alone was responsible for the killings. Pages 1, 6, 7

Yeltsin loses grip on power

President Yeltsin's illness loosened his grip on power further yesterday, when he temporarily ceded further responsibility for Russian security and foreign policy to Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister. Pages 1, 12, 21

Scotsman sold

The Scotsman, one of Scotland's most prestigious newspapers, has been sold to David and Frederick Barclay, the twins who own The European, the Ritz and the Howard Hotel. The price is around £90 million. Page 1

Bonfire fun

Demand for fireworks was expected to rocket after forecasters predicted a clear and dry bonfire night. Page 1

Heir faces deportation

A 19-year-old former Nepalese mountain boy, who is the heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, is facing deportation from his stately home. Page 3

Labour changes

Labour's ruling National Executive Committee will approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of individual MPs. Page 5

Young Tories make up to voters

Forty young Conservatives will spend the weekend at a hotel being taught how to dress and avoid gaffes, to woo voters. The men will be told how to apply make-up and pluck their eyebrows. Page 1

Prince buys Asprey

Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller to the Queen, is being sold for £243.5 million to Prince Jefri Bolkiah of Brunei, brother of the Sultan of Brunei. Pages 8, 20, 25

Extradition order

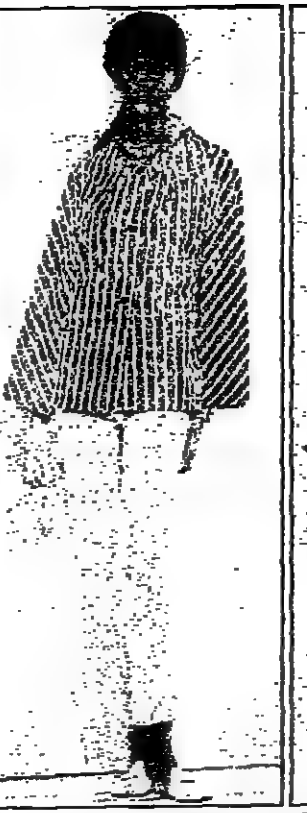
Argentina's supreme court ruled that Erich Priebke, 62, a former Gestapo captain, should be extradited to Italy for trial on charges of overseeing the massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome in 1944. Page 13

Stars are born

Unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth have been taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Page 14

Killer typhoon

The most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines for years killed 66 people, sent more than 200,000 fleeing from their homes and left millions without power. Page 15



With Spring in their steps, models show off next year's pre-summer fashion collections in New York

OPINION

KREMLIN SICKNESS
President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. But Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, reliable conciliator. Page 20

PAPERS

Sometimes Presidents are forced into the bunker. Mr and Mrs Clinton built theirs. — The New York Times

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Gives Shakespeare the right of reply, in his own words, to the Prince of Wales's book of favourite extracts. Page 20

Anne McElvoy: The tide of separatism based on gender exclusivity or sexual orientation seems to be turning fast. Page 20

OBITUARIES

Sir Andrew Crichton, shipping industrialist: Alan Bush, composer: Brian Murphy, head of the Press and Information Department of the TUC: Phil Dill, broadcasting executive. Page 23

LETTERS

Humane prison policy threatens security: neglect of Keats House. Page 21

BUSINESS

British Airways: After almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, BA's managing director since 1993. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 22.6 points to close at 3500.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.5 to 84.3 after a fall from \$1.5809 to \$1.5800 and DM2.2438 to DM2.2365. Page 28

ARTS

Toy films: Never mind the quality of Hollywood's blockbuster films for children: just feel the weight of the merchandise that goes with them. Page 17

SPORT

Football: European football authorities are to lobby governments because they fear the final judgment on the Jean-Marc Bosman transfer will split the game. Page 48

Host city: Manchester has been confirmed as host city for the Commonwealth Games in 2002. It will be the first time since 1934 that England has staged the event. Page 48

CAR

On the Brighton road: the greatest veteran car run is a family affair

SATURDAY MAGAZINE

Howard Hodgkin: Joanna Pitman discovers a wealth of colour beneath the artist's frosty public persona. Page 8
Out of steam: India's steam trains have run out of puff in the battle against diesel. Christopher Thomas reports. Page 36



WEEKEND

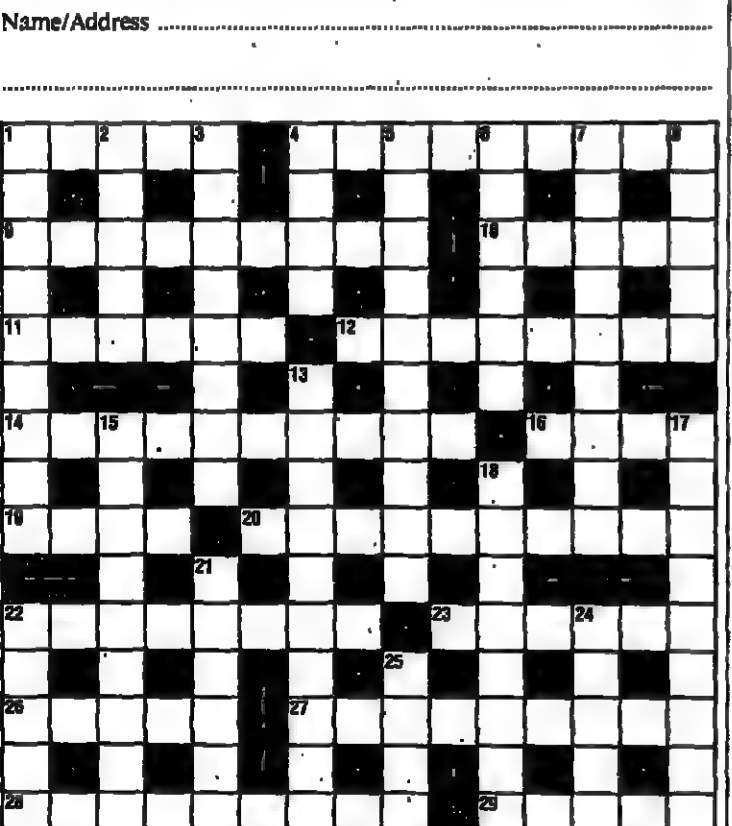
Temples: A lesson for India in Neasden: Tunku Varadarajan on temples of delight. Page 1
Fireworks: There'll be fireworks tonight when they burn the Pope. Page 4
Cellmate: The friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer. Page 15

VISION

The 7-day television and radio guide
Cover story: Francis Urquhart is back in *The Final Cut*, the final series featuring Ian Richardson as the parliamentary archplotter. Sunday, BBC1, 9pm
Booked: The Booker Prize live on Tuesday, BBC2, 8.10pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,004

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- ACROSS**
- Ruffie the riding fraternity (5).
 - Crook earns his remuneration finally working routinely (2,7).
 - Speak immediately, and at length, about it — repetitiously (4,2,3).
 - Jonathan, for instance, first thrown off by spotted horse (5).
 - Stubbornly hard to get on, like a slapper (6).
 - Frozen bird, we hear, is the issue here (8).
 - Judge must be, as a precaution (4,2,4).
 - Statuette is missing its head — a bit of a blonish (4).
 - Cultivate a little corn by river (4).
 - Shows disposition to accept less (10).
 - Recent having to ask Barnaby (8).
 - Latin-American flower girl noted for aggression (6).
 - Preoccupation with tiny note (5).
 - Entry is restricted in foreign domains (9).
 - Governor takes up residence, representing the Crown, perhaps (9).
 - Subject taken by other people — English (5).
- DOWN**
- Short runs in America sort of suit these stars (4,5).
 - Silent picture (5).
 - One foot caught by ruse almost prehistoric (8).
 - It's essential to make their "One club" (4).
 - Retire, or meet with dismissal (3,4,1).
 - Note to friend, indeed! (6).
 - Observed religious being taken in by spurious miracle (9).
 - 19 enforcing discipline (5).
 - Mischievous person (i.e. a monkey) accorded mercy (10).
 - Sharing out US city creates earthly paradise (7,2).
 - Kind of horse one trains hopelessly (9).
 - Small animal, a burrowing rodent, found round Kent area (8).
 - Excavate a trench, raised and enlarged (6).
 - City houses Conservative group (5).
 - Country's unknown river (5).
 - Book about man of straw, primarily (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,998

CHAMP AUTOMATIC
BURROUGHS
PROSECUTE THANE
BUREAU
EXTRA ON THE SPOT
A TIO
REJOINS PEGASUS
EEO A T U
ROTUNDA ARTISAN
S N S E
THERSITES CAMO
T H I U R A W
MATER GERFALCON
E S U L U E S A B
SURFBOARD HEWER

Solution to Puzzle No 20,003

SUPPRESS SCARAB
U O E T G O U R
BURMA ATAGLANE
T T L R U A I W
RHEUMATIC NAORE
A R E H D R
CHAMBER ODESSA
T G A R P F
SENSOR MASSALL
A T O A C O
REGAL LIGHTYEAR
C A L O I S E
HALFCROWN MOURN
E A N E O I C
RAPINE BRUNETTE

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: H. Fellows, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; E. J. Bushell, Oakland Vale, Merseyside; D. Clements, Pellistown, Suffolk; L. Williams, St Helier, Jersey; H. O'Donnell, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

TIMES WEATHERCAST

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Greater London	701
West/Surrey/Sussex	702
Dorset/Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire/Avon/Somerset	705
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	706
Bedfordshire	707
Northants/Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire/Hereford & W. Glam	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Wales	715
N.W. England	716
W. S. Yorks & Dalles	717
N. Yorks & Humberside	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
Edin & S. Highlands	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Islands	726

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
South/Surrey/Sussex	733
West/Surrey/Sussex	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY	
Sun sets	4.29 pm
Moon sets	3.40 am
Moon rises	3.17 pm

Full moon November 7

London 4.29 pm to 7.00 am	731
British 4.30 pm to 7.10 am	732
Edinburgh 4.27 pm to 7.12 am	733
Manchester 4.32 pm to 7.15 am	734
Perthshire 4.35 pm to 7.18 am	735

TOMORROW	
Sun sets	4.29 pm
Moon sets	4.40 am
Moon rises	3.43 pm

Full moon November 7

London 4.29 pm to 7.00 am	731
British 4.30 pm to 7.10 am	732
Edinburgh 4.27 pm to 7.12 am	733
Manchester 4.32 pm to 7.15 am	734
Perthshire 4.35 pm to 7.18 am	735

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	
London Bridge	11:11
Aberdeen	11:28
Avonmouth	11:28
Belfast	11:28
Cardiff	11:28
Devonport	11:28
Dover	11:28
Dublin	11:28
Falmouth	11:28
Glasgow	11:28
Harbour	11:28
Highgate	11:28
King's Lynn	11:28
Leith	11:28
Liverpool	11:28
Luton	11:28
Margate	11:28
Midland Coast	11:28
Newquay	11:28
Oban	11:28
Perthshire	11:28
Portsmouth	11:28
Sharncliffe	11:28
Southampton	11:28
Swansea	11:28
Tees	11:28
Wharfedale	11:28

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 16C (61F); lowest day temp: Southampton, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Colchester, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 7C (45F).

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a frosty start in many places with isolated patches of mist and fog in the east. The mist will clear to leave a fine day with some sunshine with the best of the brighter weather in the east.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly cloudy morning with rain and drizzle at times in the west. In the afternoon it will become brighter everywhere with sunny intervals in eastern parts of Scotland. Cloud will linger over northwest Scotland.

London, E. W. Midlands, Central N. England: early frost and fog will soon disperse to give a dry day with sunny spells. Wind light northeast becoming southeast. Rather cold at first. Max 11C (52F).

Central S. SE, E. NW England, E. Anglia, Channel Isles, Lake District: mist, fog and frost inland, clearing. Sunny spells later. Wind light

northeast becoming southeast. Max 11C (52F).

SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, Glasgow: early ground frost inland. Cloudy but brighter later. Some sunshine. Wind moderate to fresh, southeast. Max 12C (54F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: isolated mist patches soon clearing. Mainly bright with some sunshine. Dry. Wind light southeast becoming fresh or strong south. Max 9C (48F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N. Ireland: cloudy with rain or drizzle. Brighter during the afternoon. Mainly dry after dark. Wind south to southeast fresh or strong. Rather warm in the brighter spells. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook: dry with some sunshine. Overnight mist and frosts inland.

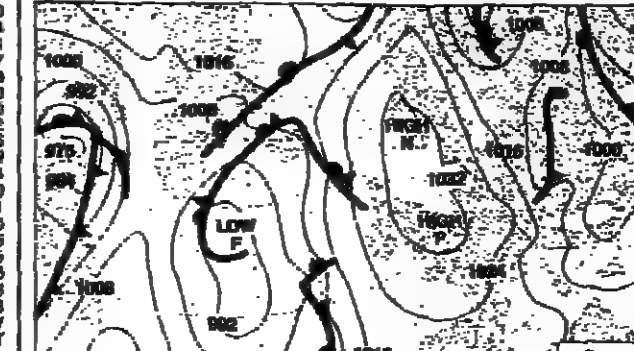
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

44 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; de=deat storm; du=duff; h=hail; l=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=showers; si=sleet; an=anor; a=anor; b=blow

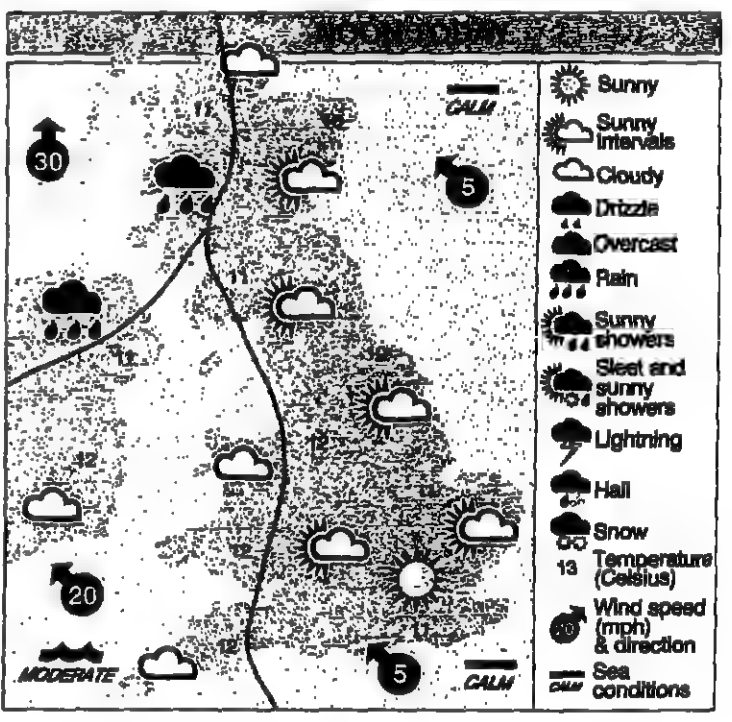
Area		Wind		Temp		Rain		Max	
hrs	to	dir	sp	dir	sp	dir	sp	dir	sp
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12

ABROAD

Area		Wind		Temp		Rain		Max	
hrs	to	dir	sp	dir	sp	dir	sp	dir	sp
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Abertawe	2.5	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12



Changes to chart above from noon: High N and high P will combine and drift towards the Netherlands. The pressure will increase slightly and decline. Low F will move east and III



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MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor on what's in store at Asprey

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK 27

The Prowess of a top headhunter



SPORT 41-48

Bewitching elf takes centre stage in Middlesbrough

THE HIDDEN ASSETS AT SHELL CENTRE
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995

Cash card fraudsters strike at Abbey again

By ROBERT MILLER

FRAUDSTERS using bogus cash machine cards have struck at Abbey National for the second time in a year. Other high street banks and building societies, including the Halifax, have also fallen victim to a gang of three to four people, bringing total losses close to £3 million.

The Abbey last night confirmed that it is working closely with the Metropolitan Police cheque and credit card squad. It is understood that the identities of the fraudsters, who use spy camcorders to film unsuspecting customers using the cash machines, are known to the police.

One long-lens camera, usually placed in a building opposite the cash machine, films the front of the card while the other zooms in on the pin identification number being typed in. When blown up on a large-screen TV the details are easy to distinguish and these are then transferred to the magnetic strip of a bogus card, which is used to plunder the account.

In the present case the gang has not yet been apprehended although arrests are believed to be imminent. Earlier this year police arrested and charged more than half a dozen people from two gangs for a similar scam on Abbey National and Royal Bank of Scotland, among others.

Abbey said that all victims had been compensated for the illegal withdrawals. He added that the new-style cards had additional security devices incorporated into the magnetic strip that would make it much harder for this particular scam to be successful.

Cordiant to charge £55m of issue cash

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A LARGE chunk of the cash that Cordiant, the former Saatchi & Saatchi, hopes to raise in its rights issue will be absorbed in disposal charges and severance pay.

Such exceptional items will strip out £55 million, while Bob Seelert, the chief executive who was recruited in July and who has organised the 1-for-1 rights issue at 60p a share, is in line for a bonus of £100,000 for the completion of the issue by the end of the year.

Cordiant also gave warning that some further "re-engineering" of its operations may lead to further exceptional charges.

The widely expected rights issue, priced at a discount of 36 per cent to yesterday's opening share price, will raise £126.6 million after underwriting expenses of £6.4 million. The issue has been fully underwritten by SBC Warburg and UBS.

The cheapness of the issue price puzzled many analysts, although a number welcomed the offer as a move to propel the cash-strapped company into a stronger position.

One said: "I just can't imagine why it has been priced at this level. There had been some feeling that Cordiant could possibly have made the offer at a premium. But if it



Bob Seelert, chief executive, stands to gain a £100,000 bonus for the early completion of the issue

Marshall to step down as BA chief executive

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AFTER almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, who has been BA's managing director since 1993.

Sir Colin, who will be 62 in a few days' time, remains as chairman in a non-executive capacity. His new role, which will involve advising the board on developing alliances with other airlines and raising the airline's profile in government and European circles, is expected to occupy two or three days a week.

The announcement surprised the City, and shares in BA rose 10p to 475p yesterday. Sir Colin joined BA as chief executive in 1983 and was subsequently appointed deputy chairman, taking over as chairman in February 1993 when Lord King stepped down.

Plea for help as number of firms going bust rises

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) yesterday charged the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise with forcing companies into liquidation and urged them to take a more helpful view.

The comments came after figures showing that company insolvencies have risen again in the third quarter, confirming the slowdown in economic growth. There were 3,919 company insolvencies in England and Wales, a 12.6 per cent increase on the second quarter but still nearly 10 per cent lower than the third quarter last year, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the Department of Trade and Industry's Insolvency Service.

Raw, unadjusted figures tell the same story, with a large rise in insolvencies between the second and third quarters. This reverses the pattern of last year, when the number of insolvencies fell between the two periods.

The BCC also noted that a 30 per cent rise in compulsory liquidations was a serious concern. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the BCC, said: "Typically, it will be the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise forcing companies into liquidation. We would urge them to take a broader view to assist with company survival."

He said that a rise in the number of companies going bust had a serious knock-on effect on the rest of the economy, with late and bad debts and increasing uncertainty undermining business confidence.

However, individual insolvencies fell 3 per cent, compared with the second quarter, and 14.3 per cent on the third quarter in 1994.

Asprey payoff for Attallah

By SARAH BAGNALL

PRINCE JEFRI, brother to the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, plans to invest heavily in Asprey, the financially troubled luxury goods group he is offering to buy for £243.5 million.

Prince Jefri has offered shareholders in the Queen's Jeweller 250p a share. John Asprey, the retailer's chairman, and his family, who together own 52 per cent of the group, have accepted the offer. However, he has agreed to retain a 10 per cent holding in Amedeo UK, the company set up to acquire Asprey. The

250p offer is a significant premium to Thursday's closing share price of 127p, but far short of the 425p that the shares commanded in 1989. The shares rose 119p, to 246p, on the news.

Asprey said Naim Attallah had retired as chief executive after 21 years with the group and would receive compensation for loss of office to reflect his one-year contract. Mr Attallah, who was due to retire later this year, earned £309,000 in the year to March 31.

Tan Dahl, Mr Attallah's replacement, who joined on September 1, and Mr Asprey will be chief executive and chairman, respectively, of Amedeo UK. Prince Jefri will nominate two other directors.

Mr Dahl said that Prince Jefri had approached Mr Asprey with a view to taking a minority interest in Asprey in the summer, but discussions had developed into takeover talks in the past few weeks.

Mr Dahl, who is completing a five-year strategic plan for Asprey, said that the takeover would give it the funding it needed to grow. He said: "Prince Jefri is committed to the business. He intends to make a substantial investment in the group, which will be significant relative to turnover." Asprey had sales of £177.8 million last year.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3500.4	(-22.9)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE All share	1721.38	(-9.01)
Nikkei	Closed	
Dow Jones	4810.40	(+1.81%)
S&P Composite	589.42	(-0.30%)
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	108 1/8%	(108 1/8%)
Yield	8.25%	(8.25%)
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
Future (Dec)	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
New York	1.5805	(1.5790)
London	1.5795	(1.5815)
DM	2.2258	(2.2431)
FF	7.7250	(7.7250)
SFR	1.7900	(1.8055)
Yen	184.04	(183.67)
£ Index	84.3	(84.5)
London	1.4145	(1.4280)
FF	4.8884	(4.8075)
SFR	1.1380	(1.1465)
Yen	108.80	(104.05)
£ Index	80.5	(80.5)
Tokyo close	Van Cleef	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$16.40	(\$16.40)
London close	\$382.65	(\$382.55)

* denotes midday trading price

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TRADE INDEMNITY

Why buy Asprey's baubles when you can buy the shop?

Enter Prince Jefri of Brunei, the chief executive of Asprey, who, for many years, is reputed to have wielded a Svengali-like influence over John Asprey, chairman of the Bond Street-based jewellers.

Much is known about Mr Attallah; less about Prince Jefri. This state of affairs is unlikely to change markedly for two reasons. The first is that Mr Attallah, the Palestinian socialite who owns Quartet Books and has an interest in the *Literary Review*, is not averse to a little publicity; as might be expected of someone who wears two watches and sports (on purpose) differently coloured socks.

The second reason is that the Sultan of Brunei, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Muizaddin Wadatulah, is averse to publicity; as might be expected of the world's richest man with an estimated fortune of more than £20 billion. The Sultan, it may be recalled, did not enjoy the pub-

licity that surrounded the alleged use of his funds in Mohamed Al Fayed's controversial £615 million takeover of House of Fraser in the mid-Eighties. Quite what role, if any, the Sultan has played in the £240 million Asprey deal is not readily apparent, but it can safely be assumed that the Sultan's dislike of inordinate publicity will not have been lost on his younger brother, His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah.

Although, as *The Times* predicted yesterday, Prince Jefri has emerged as the purchaser of Asprey, the role of a Prince in purveying jade, rubies, bejewelled daggers and the like, all wrapped up in Asprey's splendid purple paper, is unlikely to fall into the "hands on" category. There was no sign of the prince, understood to be in Brunei, when Asprey unveiled the latest turn of events in its colourful history.

The message from John Asprey, whose family trusts control 51.7 per cent of Asprey's equity, was: "My family and I

have known Prince Jefri and his family for many years. His ownership of Asprey will enhance the style and status of the group and the Asprey family is delighted to continue to play an important role in its future." He added: "Prince Jefri shares our commitment to the standards and service of the flagship business. His financial support will enable the development of all our businesses and brands to be accelerated, particularly in international markets."

Mr Asprey, presumably taking a leaf out of Prince Jefri's book, was not readily visible at the press *tête-à-tête* that took place over a cup of tea yesterday at the St James's Park offices of Hambro Magan, the merchant banking boutique that advises Asprey. It fell, instead, on Ian Dahl, successor to Mr Attallah, to chat about jewellery in general and princes in particular with the likes of myself. Mr Dahl, the former head of Sportsgirl, an Australian fashion retailer, was



MELVYN MARCKUS

appointed heir-apparent to Mr Attallah last August, although no handshake period was specified.

Mr Dahl let it be known that he was "absolutely delighted" with the latest turn of events which, he emphasised, was "good news" for everybody. Mr Dahl did not elaborate on precisely who everybody was, but it would seem safe to assume that shareholders and the Asprey

family are perceived as major beneficiaries. Also good news, presumably, for Prince Jefri and, of course, Mr Dahl.

Mr Dahl also stressed that he was "totally unaware" of such developments when he joined Asprey which, he insisted, was still "totally viable" as a plc. It emerges that talks between Mr Asprey and the Sultan's family started some two months ago and subsequently moved on to a higher plane when Prince Jefri's initial interest in taking a minority stake gave way to discussions regarding a full-scale takeover.

The City has been highly critical of the policy of acquisitive expansion embarked on by Mr Attallah in recent years. The acquisition of Garrard and Mappin & Webb for £75 million from Sears in 1990 was followed by the £23 million purchase of Watches of Switzerland from Ratners two years later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when

Asprey also bought Ronald A. Lee, the antiques specialist. Other ventures taken under Asprey's wing include Rene Boivin, the Paris jeweller and Tomasz Starwiski, the design house.

Might Mr Dahl be inclined to focus on Asprey, Garrard and Mappin & Webb and "dump the rest" I asked, exuding my own inimitable charm. "Absolutely not," said Mr Dahl, who proceeded to educate me about the charms of Watches of Switzerland which, in his words, represented a "fantastic business".

Although Mr Dahl categorically denied any suggestion that Prince Jefri's intervention smacked of a "rescue" in the wake of Asprey's £9.8 million loss for 1994-95, he admitted that a cash injection, at this point in time, held "certain attractions". At this point in time, mid-year profits for 1995-96 are down from £3 million to £1.2 million. Mr Dahl and his advisers refused to comment as to how much Prince

Jefri envisaged injecting into Asprey over the next few years — a silence that leaves one to guess at a further £20 million to £30 million commitment.

Sultans and their families do not, of course, tend to become involved in anything as vulgar as a takeover battle. Amadeo UK, the offshoot of Jersey-based Amadeo, has received "irrevocable" undertakings from the Asprey family in respect of their 51.7 per cent interest — 10 per cent of which will be swapped for equity in Amadeo UK. John Asprey and Mr Dahl will emerge as chairman and chief executive respectively of the UK vehicle. The prince's representatives have yet to be appointed.

The offer of 250p cash is well below Asprey's all-time high of more than 400p but, in view of the 54p low seen earlier this year, not a few shareholders will be distinctly relieved at Prince Jefri's appearance. After all, why buy the baubles when you can afford to buy the shop?

Sumitomo to take over Daiwa Bank operations in US

By GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve yesterday gave its blessing to plans by Daiwa Bank, Japan's tenth largest bank, to allow its US operations to be absorbed by its rival Sumitomo.

The move follows an order by American banking authorities for Daiwa to shut down its operations in the US in the wake of an apparent \$1.1 billion scheme to cover up huge bond losses in New York and a 34-point indictment alleging conspiracy to defraud the Federal Reserve.

It was revealed yesterday that Daiwa first asked Sumitomo to support its US operations on October 9 after the Japanese bank began to fear the possibility of swinging penalties being imposed by American authorities over the bond losses.

It was also revealed that the Bank of England had found no irregularities in an inquiry jointly conducted with the

Securities and Futures Authority into the London branch of Daiwa Bank. The Bank of England said yesterday: "We have conducted an investigation into Daiwa Bank London under Section 39 of the Banking Act. There was no evidence of irregularities of the kind that affected Daiwa Bank in the US or anything that would constitute a threat to depositors in the UK."

The action against Daiwa was the first against an overseas bank by the US authorities since the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was shut down in July 1990.

Yesterday, the Federal Reserve said that Sumitomo could absorb Daiwa's US operations before expiry of the 90-day deadline to shut down. In the meantime, Daiwa said it is to fight the criminal charges. If found guilty, the bank faces penalties of up to \$1.3 billion.

The Daiwa affair raises questions of bank regulation around the world and strains relations between Japan and the US, when US liquidity may be needed to ease any further strains that emerge in Japan's troubled banking system.

Last night, a senior American banking monitor said that he thought Daiwa represented the problem of an individual institution and was not a symptom of a wider problem.

Jim Leach, chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee, said: "While this may symbolise certain problems in transparency in the Japanese banking system, this is a movement against an individual bank in very much the same terms as an American bank would have been moved against." He believes the Bank of Japan and the Japanese financial system have sufficient resources to deflect any systemic risk.



Howard Sims takes over as chief executive of the new Cavaghan & Gray Group

Struggling Dalepak and Cavaghan merge

By ROBERT BOYD

DALEPAK, the troubled Yorkshire frozen food manufacturer which supplies the likes of Tesco and Asda, is to merge with Cavaghan & Gray, the private chilled food company.

The move values Cavaghan & Gray at approximately £43.4 million, compared with Dalepak's market value of £12.3 million. The new enlarged group will be called Cavaghan & Gray Group. Howard Sims, Cavaghan & Gray's chief executive, will become chief executive of the enlarged group.

Dalepak, currently showing a loss, proposes to raise £13 million by way of an issue of up to 14.3 million new Dalepak shares at 105p each. The offer is 31 new Dalepak shares for every 25 existing shares.

Mr Sims said: "There is a large demand for capital in the food industry and we have to keep investing. In the past we have had to borrow, so this merger is ultimately the way forward."

Tempos, page 28

Trial breaks early for 'tired' Kevin Maxwell

THE Maxwell trial adjourned early yesterday after Kevin Maxwell declared himself "knackered" from three weeks in the witness box.

Nearly half-an-hour before the court's normal rising time, Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, told Mr Justice Phillips: "It has been drawn to my attention that Mr Maxwell has been in the box all the week — I don't know if he is tired." Kevin said "I am knackered", to which the judge said they could have a slightly earlier weekend.

During the day, Kevin said

a lie he had admitted telling to the Bank of Nova Scotia about the status of shares being used as security for a foreign exchange deal had become "a huge milestone around my neck".

Kevin, 36, denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pension funds by misusing £100 million-worth of Scotiabank shares. He, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny a similar charge concerning £22 million-worth of shares in Teva, another Israeli company. The trial was adjourned until Monday.

TOURIST RATES

	From	To
Australia \$	2.19	2.09
Belgium Fr	40.21	44.81
Canada Cdn	2.21	2.071
Denmark Kr	0.765	0.709
France Fr	9.32	8.52
Germany DM	7.33	6.88
Greece Dr	2.11	1.99
Hong Kong \$	12.05	11.85
Italy Lit	1.00	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.8200
Japan Yen	89.00	84.00
Malaysia RM	1.700	1.620
Netherlands Gld	0.587	0.542
New Zealand \$	2.071	1.941
Norway Kr	2.35	2.23
Portugal Esc	10.50	9.70
Spain Ptas	207.50	228.00
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.52
Switzerland Fr	1.34	1.26
Turkey Lira	1.00	770.00
USA \$	1.070	1.040

Rates for small denomination coins notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Britain's overpaid executives

Who is Britain's most "overpaid" chief executive? Find out tomorrow in our exclusive survey, which pinpoints the leaders whose pay outstrips their company's performance. Plus: the other side of the coin — Britain's most underpaid bosses

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Costs of equality action 'can be high'

EQUAL opportunity policies for business are compatible with economic efficiency, leading equality campaigners said yesterday. However, although the Government's Equal Opportunities Commission emphasised the business case for equal treatment, it acknowledged in a new research study on the economics of equal opportunities that the cost of implementing such policies could be high.

Kamlesh Bahl, the commission's chairwoman, said that although the ethical case for equal opportunities still formed the core of the argument in favour, it was now "legitimate" to consider the economics of the issue, with a "groundswell" among employers for examining it that way. Commission leaders will put the case for equal opportunities directly to employers at a conference to be held next month, which will be addressed by Pádraig Flynn, the European Commission's Social Affairs Commissioner.

Rover recruitment drive

ROVER, the car manufacturer acquired by BMW in 1994, is to recruit 300 specialist engineers by next spring, it was announced yesterday. It brings the total number of new jobs announced this year to 4,000. By the end of next year, Rover will have increased its workforce worldwide to more than 40,000 — the highest level for more than five years. John Towers, chief executive, said volume sales were still up 4 per cent worldwide in the first nine months of this year.

Ciro extends offer

CIRO Holdings has received acceptances in respect of 34 per cent of Country Casuals, the fashion retailer, for its £27 million hostile bid. The offer, headed by John Shannon, former chief executive of Country Casuals, has extended the 140p-a-share offer until November 16. Acceptances include Mr Shannon's 19 per cent stake and Phillips & Drew Fund Management's 13 per cent interest, committed at the beginning of the bid. The shares were unchanged at 140p.

Alliance Resources slips

SHARES in Alliance Resources fell yesterday from the September suspension price of 4p to 1.5p when trading resumed after the oil and gas exploration company disclosed an \$18.2 million loss in 1995, including \$16.7 million from the revaluation of oil interests at the Valentine field in Louisiana. The company said it was "vigorously" pursuing legal action against John O'Brien, the former chief executive. Mr O'Brien is defending the action.

UK Safety stumbles

SHARES in UK Safety fell 11p to 19p after the company, which manufactures industrial and military footwear, warned investors that weak demand had caused a shortfall in sales in the nine months to September 30, with a significant impact on profitability and cashflow. The interim dividend of 0.5p a share, already declared, will be paid on December 15, but the payment of a final dividend will be reviewed in the light of final results for 1995.

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Helen Pridham offers a guide to guaranteed investments

Your money back with interest — if you are careful

No one likes losing money. Seeing the stock market slide and your investments with it can unsettle even the boldest investor. For some people a loss of capital can be devastating.

To avoid this danger, security-minded investors are attracted by "guaranteed" investments which protect against loss. But they must look carefully at what is guaranteed and how it is provided.

Guaranteed products have been particularly popular this year according to Charles Levett-Scrivener, associate director of Towry Law, the financial adviser. "There are two main reasons. A lot of people got their fingers burnt last year when the market fell."

"Although the market has risen again in recent months, it takes longer for people's attitudes to change. The other factor is that most of the money available for investment is coming from retired people who feel they have earned all they are going to earn and are inclined towards investments which do not put their capital at risk."

The appeal of guaranteed returns was illustrated earlier this year when Legal & General's guaranteed corporate-bond Pep attracted £130 million, while other companies not offering guarantees were barely able to attract this amount between them.

Some guaranteed products have been around for years. Gilts and National Savings products come with a government guarantee. Guaranteed income and growth which are issued by insurance companies have also been popular.

But more recently there has been a rapid growth in guaranteed-equity investments using financial derivatives to provide fixed returns linked to the rise in the market, or your money back if it falls. There are now a number of variations on this theme.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says these guaranteed-equity prod-

ucts need very careful scrutiny. He says: "People must be sure they understand what they are buying and how it affects their tax position."

One point investors should bear in mind is that guarantees are often linked to a specific period or anniversary. If you need to cash in early you may get back less than your original investment. So be sure you can lock away your cash for the whole period.

Here are some of the main guaranteed products:

Gilts: Issued and guaranteed by Government, no other investment is as secure. Yet they are often overlooked by private investors. They pay a fixed rate of interest for a fixed term which can range from under 5 years to more than 30. Longer-term gilts are currently yielding 8 per cent or more gross. At the end of the term the stock is repaid in full. In the meantime, the price will fluctuate. So if they are sold early or purchased when prices are high you may get

Investors must be sure that they understand what they are buying and its effect on their tax position

back less than you invested. Details on how to purchase them through the National Savings Stock Register can be obtained from post offices.

National Savings: Also backed by Government, National Savings offers a range of products with a guaranteed rate of return and your money back. These include the Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond which pays a monthly income equivalent to 7.5 per cent p.a. gross, fixed for five years. The minimum investment in the bond is £500, the maximum £20,000. National Savings also offers one of the few products that guarantees that the value of your investment will keep pace with inflation — Index Linked National Savings Certificates.

Guaranteed Income & Growth Bonds: These are sold by insurance companies usually for terms of between one and five years. They pay a fixed rate of income or growth and your capital back at the end of the term. Income is normally on a monthly or annual basis. The typical minimum investment required is about £3,000. Rates of up to 7 per cent net of basic rate tax are currently being offered on five-year bonds. To be able to offer these rates, insurance companies have to be in a favourable tax position which means they tend to be small or in a rapidly expanding phase. Among the more recognisable companies currently offering bonds are Abbey Life, Britannia Life and NatWest Life. Investors should bear in mind that the guarantees on these bonds are only as good as the companies themselves, though the Policyholders Protection Act would ensure that investors get back 90 per cent of their money if a company collapsed.

Guaranteed Equity Bonds: Normally issued for a five-year term, investors get a percentage of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index (which measures share-price movements of the UK's top 100 companies) or their money back if the index falls. Many bonds guarantee a minimum of 25 per cent over the term even if the index falls.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says the concept is not as simple as it appears. He says: "Frequently it is not 100 per cent, but only 96 per cent of an investment that will be raised in line with the index. No dividend income is added — the FT-SE 100 index is a capital index only. The index level at the term's end is also frequently averaged over the last six or 12 months. This protects against sudden falls, but you won't benefit from sudden rises."

Most are issued by insurance companies that quote returns net of basic rate tax.



But they are also sold by building societies and banks, such as Barclays, currently offering a Guaranteed Equity Savings Bond. They can quote returns before tax. Returns from these products cannot therefore be directly compared and for higher-rate taxpayers the tax treatment is different. Higher-rate taxpayers will normally be better off with insurance-based bonds.

Guaranteed Equity Income Bonds: Some guaranteed-equity bonds provide an income as well as a capital return based on market indices. Mr Levett-Scrivener says these need even closer scrutiny. He cites the Financial Assurance Higher Income Bond which is offering an 11 per cent income. "Investors only get their money back if both the FT-SE 100 index and

the S&P 500 Index grow by 9.25 per cent over five years. If either does not achieve the required growth, the capital return will be less than the original investment. At worst, it will be less than 50 per cent."

Bank & building society products: Banks and building societies have always guaranteed your capital back but more are now offering fixed-rate term accounts, such as the Halifax's Guaranteed Reserve Account. Recently the trend has been to offer stepped-rate bonds that guarantee rates will rise over a term of three to five years. Investors should not be too impressed by the high rates at the end of the term. Average the rates over the period to get a better figure to compare with flat guaranteed rates. Some Tassas have also been offered with guaran-

teed rates and there will be more in the coming months.

Peps: Most Peps are not guaranteed. The only guaranteed-equity Pep on the market is Legal & General's Guaranteed Stockmarket Investment Plan. Investors pay a one-off insurance premium of 4 per cent to cover the capital guarantee and a 2 per cent annual management charge. It invests in a unit trust which aims to track the FT-SE 100 index with a no-loss guarantee at the fifth anniversary. Unlike guaranteed-equity bonds, this Pep also enables investors to enjoy the added benefit of the dividend income from the underlying shares. Also still available is Johnson Fry's Guaranteed Corporate Bond Pep, paying 7 per cent net over 5 years and your capital back at the end of the term.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

How safe are bank and society savings?

Q How safe is my money in banks and building societies? What compensation can I hope for if things go wrong?

A First, a few words of reassurance. The UK's banks and general life assurance companies have a better track record than similar organisations in the United States, according to Paul Greenwood, of actuaries Wm Mercer. "Our life assurance regulations have been taken as a model by many other countries: our banks have had fewer collapses than the US."

Investors are protected by the panoply of regulation established by the Financial Services Act. However, the system is not without flaws, as a number of scandals have revealed. Mr Greenwood cites the issue of custody: who holds the assets of a unit trust group and are they being invested elsewhere?

Q I have £15,000 with a society. How safe is it if the society collapses?

A Under the Building Societies Act 1986, 90 per cent of savings up to £20,000 per person (ie £18,000) is covered in the event of the society folding. This is the maximum statutory payout and a husband and wife with a joint account would each be covered for this amount.

However, the Building Societies Association says there has never been a payout because societies are so carefully regulated. If a society seemed to be in trouble a merger with another society might well be arranged.

Q What about the £15,000 I have in my bank? Is that covered too?

A Under the Deposit Protection Scheme, customers can get back 90 per cent of their money up to a maximum of £18,000 per person. Interest earned on your account at the time when the deposit becomes due and payable will be protected, subject to the limits of the scheme. In a

liquidation, deposits cease to attract interest immediately, whereas in other cases deposits will normally continue to accrue interest until maturity. The payout is the maximum temporary payout pending the restructuring of the bank. It may not be the final payout. In general, all loans, overdrafts and other amounts owing to the bank will be deducted when calculating the amount of the deposit on which compensation will be paid.

Q And my policy with an insurance company?

A Individuals who have an insurance policy with a UK authorised insurance company are protected by the Policyholders Protection Act of 1975. You should ask your insurance company whether it is authorised before you pay. The protection scheme guarantees up to 90 per cent of the insurance company's commitment to the policyholder at the time when the company goes into liquidation if the company cannot pay out. You will get 90 per cent of the money you have in your fund at the time. The scheme also covers general insurance for homes, and vehicles.

Q How secure is my personal equity plan?

A With unit trust Peps, the collapse of a unit trust management company is covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). You get back up to £48,000 if the management company fails, if the manager stole your money or committed an act of fraud. If you are a husband and wife you each get back £48,000. If you bought your unit trust through an independent financial adviser or tied agent and he put your money in a high-risk fund when you asked for something safe, you may have a claim against the adviser, or against the ICS if the firm rejects the complaint.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Pelham Crescent, South Kensington, where flat-owners are seeking freeholds

Charity faces court fight over freehold

One of the leaseholders fighting to buy the freehold of blocks of flats on the South Kensington estate of Henry Smith's Charity is taking the charity to court, claiming that it has failed to follow procedures laid down in the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987. These are intended to give tenants the right of first refusal of the freehold if the existing landlord wants to sell to a third party.

The imminent court battle is the latest twist in the campaign being waged by residents of the South Kensington estate, which takes in such exclusive streets as Pelham Crescent, Onslow Gardens and Lennox Gardens. At issue is the control of the freeholds of their properties.

Other flat-owners are fighting similar battles. Investigations by *The Times* have found that many landlords are flouting the law and threatening huge legal costs

Sara McConnell on a campaign by flat-owners who feel they are being deprived of new rights

if tenants attempt court action. The Labour Party this week pledged to tighten leasehold enfranchisement laws and enforce sanctions on freeholders.

Zipporah Mainwaring, a resident on Smith's Charity's South Kensington estate, will ask the West London County Court this month to order the charity to issue her a section 5 notice under the 1987 Act, immediately giving her first refusal to buy the freehold. Smith's Charity says it will not issue section 5 notices to residents to offer the sale of the freehold until a system of estate management has been agreed between residents and

Cluttons, the charity's agents, approved by a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and an appeal heard. Cluttons says a scheme is necessary to preserve the integrity of the estate. The tribunal hearing to approve a scheme has been postponed until the new year after initial proposals met with a storm of protest from some residents, who said they would not have control over maintenance costs. Ms Mainwaring says an estate management scheme was not part of Smith's Charity's original sale conditions. She wants to buy the freehold "unencumbered" by an estate management scheme. Cluttons,

agents for Smith's Charity, would say only: "The dispute is over a technical point. Ms Mainwaring has one interpretation of the Act which is not shared by Smith's Charity."

In July, Smith's Charity angered tenants when it announced that it had sold the freehold of the £283 million estate to another charity, the Wellcome Trust, without having served notices on tenants under section 5. This would have given tenants two months to respond. Instead, Wellcome served notices under section 18. Under this section, half the tenants must declare their interest in being offered the freehold within one month of receiving the notice. Cluttons, also acting as agent for Wellcome, says that Section 18 notices create more certainty and mean a quicker sale if tenants are not interested in the freehold.

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M. Surname

All surnames

Address

Postcode

This form cannot be used to purchase Premium Bonds at a post office.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

How safe are bank and safety savings?

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صكنا من العمل

PIA limbers up for final round of pensions fight

Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, is putting on her boxing gloves, determined, at last, to bring the personal pension debate to a satisfactory conclusion.

This change of personal style is good news for those sold an unsuitable personal pension and now awaiting compensation. Insurance companies, the principal offenders in this affair, will doubtless be less pleased. Although they should see the swift resolution of this unhappy episode as the principal means of restoring public confidence in their products, a reluctance to confront reality lingers on.

This is shown in the public pronouncements of some senior insurance figures who

see themselves as unfairly treated and put the blame on the media.

The power of the press may be considerable, but the mass-murdering of a £4 billion scandal with hundreds of thousands of victims, lured into unsuitable pensions by commission-hungry salesmen is beyond our resources.

The press is, however, concerned to see people make decent provision for their old age. It does not want to see pensioners forced by inadequate pensions to fall back on the state. This cause should also be close to the hearts of insurance company boards anxious for increased pension sales, if not for pensioner welfare. But they must be prepared to make reparation for their past behaviour. This week, the atonement process



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

began in earnest, after months of prevarication. The PIA is now making clear the ultimate sanction for failure to provide information to its special pensions unit will be expulsion from the industry.

This threat applies not only to insurance companies but also to financial advisers who have claimed co-operation with the unit would invalidate their professional indemnity cover. The instinct

escape scrutiny should be aware that Ms Bowe's reputation depends on the outcome of this investigation. The writing is on the wall. Or, rather in the full-page advertisements, detailing offences, that could be the next PIA penalty for wrongdoers.

Making tracks

THE announcement that Legal & General is to abolish the 5.25 per cent initial charge on its index-tracker fund is designed to fill us with gratitude at its generosity (see page 33). But the effect is quite the reverse. You wonder how such a fee was ever justified and whether it would have been discontinued if competition in this market had not been so fierce.

particular stock market index, holding the same shares and having (in theory) the same performance. No costly research work is needed.

When Gartmore did away with its charge three years ago, it said that there was no excuse for slicing 5 per cent from an investor's cheque for such a simple low-cost operation. Others persisted with the fee, hoping that investors would not notice.

The arrival of Virgin has alerted the public to the amounts being deducted from their investments. The unit trust industry has had to make the best of this development. But at its annual dinner this week, some hissed when the name Virgin was mentioned. High spirits or resentment? More the latter, I think.



Fireworks fun for all, but remember, remember, household insurance policies and liability can be questionable should things get out of control or an accident happen

Hidden hazards of bonfire night

This weekend is the riskiest time of year for householders as Guy Fawkes celebrations get under way. Apart from the danger of personal injury from fireworks or bonfires, the most obvious hazard is fire. On bonfire night, the risk of your home catching fire is 75 per cent higher than on any other day of the year. According to Eagle Star, the household insurer, there is an average of 600 house fires on November 5 each year against 340 on a typical day.

There are other threats. Eagle Star also found that the risk of being burgled on November 5 is 54 per cent higher than the daily norm. The average number of burglaries nationally on bonfire night, at 3,403, is the year's highest.

It is not hard to see why. The evenings are darker, many people are away from their homes attending firework dis-

plays, and the sound of exploding fireworks can mask the noise of breaking windows.

In most cases, your insurance company will honour claims. Theft is covered, while fire damage in the home caused by a stray rocket coming down your chimney or a bonfire getting out of control will also be catered for in household building and contents policies.

The latter will pay out as well if fireworks or sparks from a bonfire set alight outbuildings such as garages, sheds and greenhouses. Damage to fences and gates is also included in most policies.

Some claims are refused. Jacky Brown, underwriting manager at Preferred Direct, the insurer, gives an example of one policyholder who, in order to avoid damaging his lawn, built a bonfire on his patio. The heat from the bonfire ended up blistering much of the paintwork on the

window frames around the patio," she says. "We had to turn down his claim for repainting the windows, but if he had had an accidental damage extension to his policy we would have met the cost."

Your household policy also covers your legal liability as owner and occupier of your property. If someone is injured at a firework party at your home owing to your negligence — say, because you told him or her to relight a firework that had not gone off and which then exploded — your insurers will cover the cost of compensation if you are sued for damages.

However, your negligence would have to be proved. Your insurers would not pay out if guests are injured because of their own recklessness — for example, if they had stood too close to a bonfire even though you warned them not to.

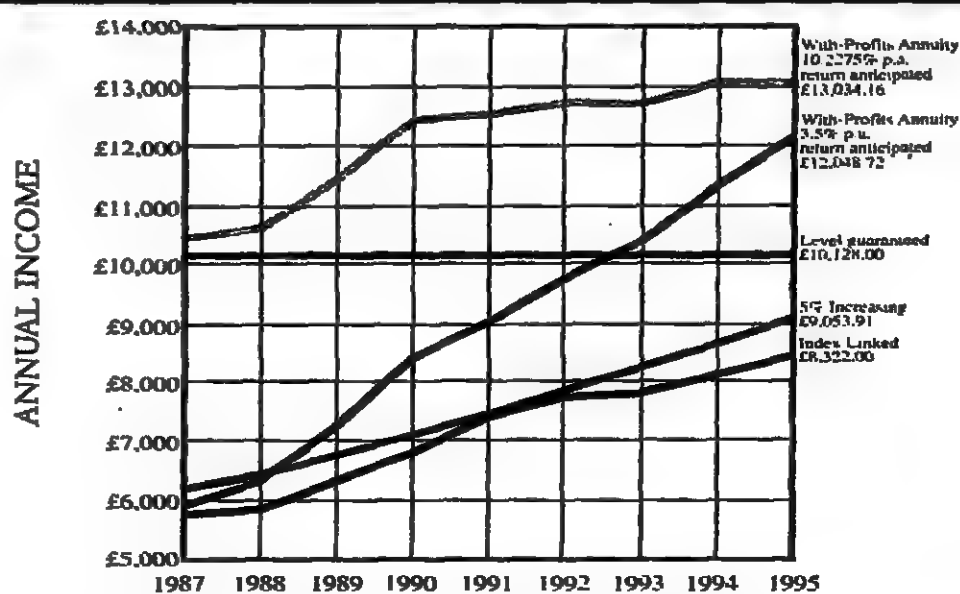
HELEN PRIDHAM

OVER 50?

The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance
27-28 January 1995

ISN'T IT WORTH SHOPPING AROUND FOR YOUR ANNUITY?



The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987. The form of annuity is a joint-life annuity - male and female aged 60, payable monthly in advance, not reducing on first death.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

You may not realise that when you take the proceeds of your pension fund you face a critical decision: which investment route and which company can provide the best possible income for you to live comfortably for the rest of your life.

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After all, having spent many years carefully selecting your plan provider and contributing regularly to

build up your fund, it would be a mistake not to investigate all the options before making a once and for all decision. Turning your pension fund into income is compulsory and your choice irrevocable.

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The above graph is designed to show what happened to four identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and

their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

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The art of investing in an emerging market

Robert Miller looks at the opportunities that are coming out of Africa



Africa was Terra Incognita to most Europeans before the great expeditions of the 15th century, such as that of Dr Livingstone. This week, however, it is very much in the news, but for all the wrong investment reasons. The fact that the South African Stock Exchange, a cornerstone of liquidity in the continent's money markets, is undergoing its own "Big Bang" or de-regulation, has been overshadowed by other events. In a Durban court this week, General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister and ten other security chiefs from the apartheid era, were bailed after being charged with murder in relation to the massacre in 1987 of 13 people. In Nigeria, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the playwright, was sentenced to death, provoking worldwide condemnation, including a strongly worded statement from the Foreign Office. It is into this apparently unsettled investment environment that GT proposes to launch an Africa fund this



An Ashanti 18th century terracotta head, at the Royal Academy of Arts Africa: The Art of A Continent exhibition

month. That there is growth potential in certain African markets is beyond dispute. Indeed, the African story could well be the emerging market story of the next few years. Others in this category, notably the now more mature Far East Tiger economies, such as Thailand and Malaysia, are taking a breather. John Legat, GT's director of emerging

in general have been held back in the same way that many Latin American countries were in the 1970s and 80s. These factors include excessive control of national economies, centralised planning, import substitution, tariffs, price and wage controls and restrictions on foreign exchange. In certain countries, corruption should be added to the list. Tribal and ethnic conflicts have also played their part. These include the war in Kampuchea, succession in what is now Zaire in the early 1960s, the Nigerian war of the early 1970s and the complete breakdown of law and order in Somalia in the early 1990s. Turning to individual countries, Mr Legat says that in Uganda, once hailed as the Pearl of Africa, investment is only now beginning to pick up after the imposition of a strict economic regime, backed by the International Monetary Fund, in 1988. Cotton production has doubled to 70,000 bales since. The continent is still rich in minerals, and tourism is developing rapidly. There are now 14 bourses, or stock exchanges. Besides South Africa, other nations with bourses include Egypt, Mauritius and Namibia. Mr Legat says that favoured countries for his portfolio are likely to include South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya and Mauritius. He adds that portfolio weightings should reflect the fact that the Africa story is only part of the emerging markets theme, but is certainly worth an initial or even increased exposure. It is one for looking away on a long-term view.

availability dents' cash

The price war in the personal savings market intensified this week when two leading unit trust managers scrapped initial charges on their funds. The moves, by Legal & General and HSBC Asset Management, were prompted in part by the current mood of apathy and suspicion among private investors, which has seen unit trust sales fall by 20 per cent in recent months. In addition, managers have watched Richard Branson attract £100 million of new savings to his low-cost Virgin personal equity plan (Pep) since its launch in March. They are also looking forward to getting their hands on some of the £15 billion of funds that are held in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and are due to mature next year. As a result, HSBC, whose UK

Pepping up interest by abolishing sign-up fees

Index Fund is worth £162 million, announced that it was abolishing initial charges on seven of its funds. From January 1, there will no longer be a 5.25 per cent charge on its index tracking funds. Legal & General, which said that it aimed to increase its share of the Pep market from 1 to 10 per cent in the next three years, has scrapped initial charges and withdrawal fees on its five existing

Peps. The company has also launched a low-cost index-tracking Pep that claims to be the cheapest on the market, investing in L&G's UK Index Trust, holder of nearly 72 per cent of shares in the FT-SE 100 index. Index-tracking funds aim to match the growth of an index — a measure of movement in value by a certain number of shares. There are 39 authorised such funds, with £23 billion under management, and investors need to choose one with a good record, not just opt for one with low charges. Among the cheapest Peps is Virgin's, with an annual management charge of 1 per cent and no initial charge. Gartmore's UK Index Fund Pep has no initial charge and an annual 1 per cent charge.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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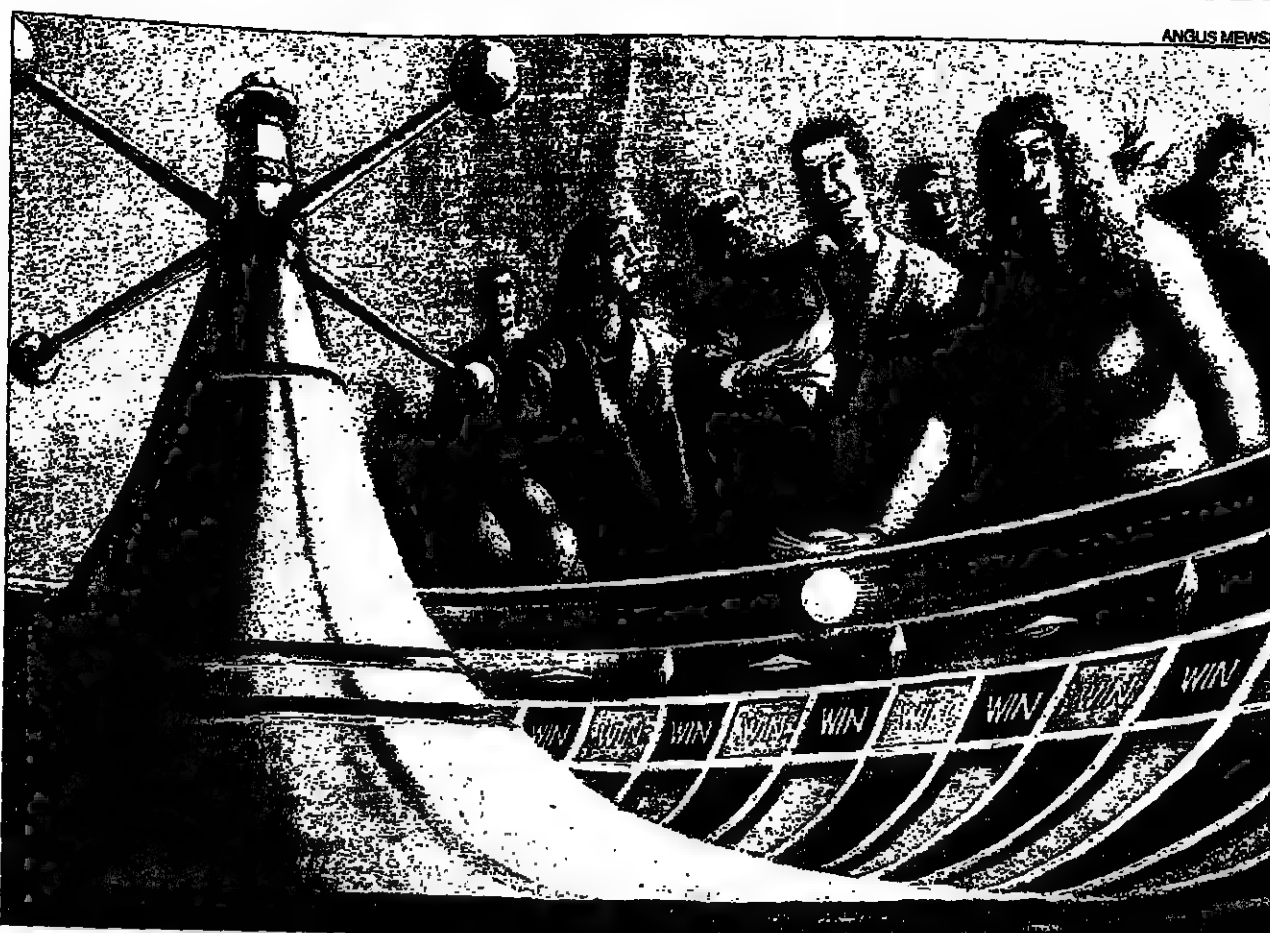
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Gamble with Ernie — but keep your stake

When were Premium Bonds introduced?

A The first draw was held in 1957. The top prize was £1,000. Significant events in Ernie's history to date include his replacement in 1973 by the speedier Ernie Mark II. In 1988, Ernie Mark III capable of completing the draw in less than two hours came into operation.

In 1990, in a bizarre episode, it was alleged that M15 was using Premium Bonds to pay freelance agents. It was claimed that cheques were sent out from the Premium Bond headquarters in Lytham St Annes, Blackpool. The security services then reimbursed National Savings. But the rumour was denied by the Prime Minister, who said there was "no scope for abuse of the system". The Department for National Savings was not asked to investigate further. Today, the department says: "We would have had nothing to tell, other than to comment that the suggestion was pure fantasy." Lord "Lucky" Lucan won £100 in 1980, six years after his disappearance in the wake of the murder of nanny Sandra Rivett. The cash went to creditors.

How many bonds can I hold?

A In 1957, the maximum holding was £500; it is now £20,000. The minimum purchase is a relatively steep £100. Purchases above that figure are in multiples of £10. Bonds can be bought by those over 16 only. But parents, grandparents and guardians can buy bonds on behalf of children. Bonds enter the draw once they have been held for a full calendar month.

More than 23 million people hope to win the £1 million top Premium Bond prize. Anne Ashworth reports

How are the winners selected?

A The prize-winning numbers are chosen by the fabled Ernie, not a computer, but an electronic random number generator. Ernie works by a complex system of electronic noises, generating random numbers by means of a number of tiny Zenit noise diodes.

The noises made by these diodes are converted electronically into the digits that make Premium Bond numbers. Suspicious bondholders will be reassured to learn that, each month, the Government Actuary monitors Ernie's output. The officials carry out statistical tests to check that the letters and figures that make up the winning bond numbers are produced entirely at random, and that each eligible bond number has an equal chance of winning.

What prizes are on offer?

A About £24 million a month is paid out in 368,480 prizes (November total). The prize pot is calculated as a variable percentage (currently 5.2 per cent) of the total invested in Premium Bonds. The monthly prize structure was introduced 18 months ago. There is one £1 million prize, two of £100,000, three of £50,000, four of £25,000, ten of £10,000 and 25 of £5,000. In addition, there are about 368,435 prizes of between £50 and £1,000, all free of income tax and capital gains tax.

What are the odds of winning a prize?

A The odds of winning any prize are 1 in 15,000 for each single £1 unit. But these widen to 1 in 5.53 billion for the jackpot and 1 in 2.76 billion for a £100,000 prize. They reduce to 1 in 16,211 for a £50 prize.

The law of averages suggests if you hold £1,250 worth of bonds, you should win a prize a year. With the maximum £20,000 holding, you should win 16 prizes a year.

How are the odds worked out?

A In the past few weeks, several readers of *The Times* have written questioning these odds statistics, particularly those for the £20,000 holders.

Michael McDade, deputy head of operations at National Savings, explains: "To calculate the average chance, or odds, of winning a prize, the number of eligible bonds is divided by the number of prizes in each draw. For example, in October, the number of eligible bonds was 5,405,981,018, and we paid out 360,398 prizes. Hence each £1 bond had a 1 in 15,000 chance of winning a prize."

He continues: "A number of our customers who hold £20,000 worth of bonds have won more than 16 prizes in a year and a number have won less. It is the average number of prize wins which, for maximum holders, works out at 16 a year. This follows from the fact that, to a sufficient order

of approximation, the average number of prize wins is determined by the number of bonds held times the chance of winning times the number of draws, thus: 20,000 x 1/15,000 x 12 equals 16."

Why do the newer bonds win all the prizes?

A The conviction that the more recently purchased bonds receive preferential treatment leads many holders to cash in their bonds to buy new ones. However, National Savings points out that there are more prizewinners among the recent bond numbers, because many earlier bonds have been cashed in. Switching from old to new bonds puts you at a disadvantage, as bonds do not enter the draw until they have been held for a full calendar month.

Why does Ernie have a bias towards the South?

A The myth of a southern bias holds considerable sway, reinforced by the frequency of Surrey £1 million jackpot winners. Four of the 20 millionaires created to date, including this month's, come from this county. National Savings, however, points to the ownership statistics: southerners win more prizes simply because they hold more bonds. National Savings points out that names and addresses are not stored within Ernie's system.

Are Premium Bonds an investment or a form of gambling?

A Premium Bonds are a form of gambling, where your stake is the interest that you forgo on your cash invested in the bonds.



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THERE are about 23.1 million bondholders, close to half the population. Together they have £5.6 billion invested in bonds, half of which have been bought in the past five years. Since 1957, some £3 billion has been paid out in prizes. Our affection for Ernie does not always extend to providing details of a change of address. As a result, there is £13 million in unclaimed prizes. The numbers are listed in the *London Gazette*, available from post offices. Sales of bonds have prospered since the introduction of the £1 million

BOND FACTS

jackpot in April 1994 and the subsequent launch of the National Lottery, which highlighted one advantage of a Premium Bond win-anonymity.

There are also signs that independent financial advisers are more willingly than formerly to recommend all National Savings schemes. In the past, they were sometimes overlooked, as the Department for National Savings does not offer commission to middlemen.

Since April, the numbers with the £20,000 maximum holding have more than doubled from 19,297 to 46,525.

The boom in sales means that Premium Bonds are the principal contributor among National Savings schemes to government funding. Those who despair of their chances will be relieved to learn that only one of the 20 Ernie millionaires has the maximum holding, although the November winner was close, with £19,500. The holder from Gloucestershire who scooped the jackpot in October had £500 of bonds.



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Marianne Curphey on those who change banks

Charges boost army of switchers

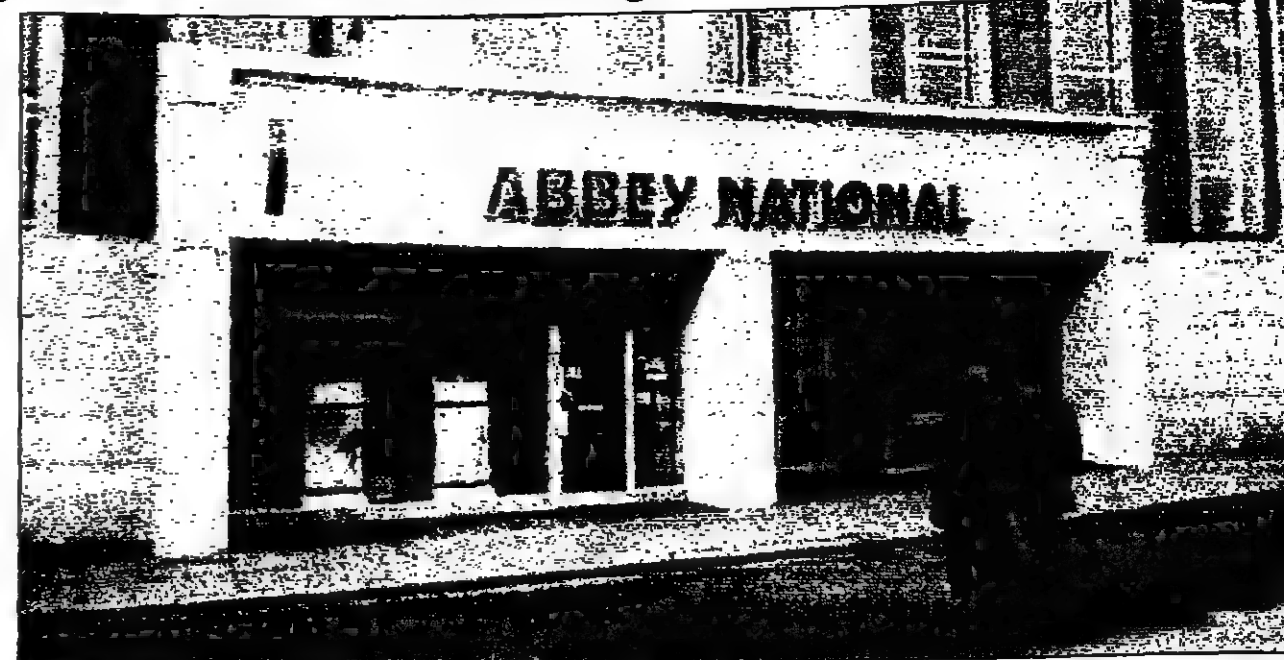
Aggressive advertising by banks and a series of highly critical surveys have persuaded tens of thousands of customers to switch current accounts this year.

The Consumers' Association estimates that more than 40 per cent of its members have changed banks because of poor service or high charges, while First Direct, the telephone banking arm of HBSC, claims to have poached about 90,000 customers from high street rivals.

Abbey National says that applications have doubled to 25,000 a month since it re-launched its current account in May, and estimates that 90 per cent are from "switchers". "Most of our new customers are from other banks," said a spokeswoman for Abbey National. "Our television advertisements have been designed to boost our share of the current account market."

The Abbey's authorised overdraft has no monthly or arrangement fees and has a 9.9 per cent annual percentage rate (APR). Unauthorised borrowing is more costly, at £12 per month plus interest, of 29.5 per cent annually.

First Direct says that it has been recruiting 10,000 new customers every month for the past ten months and now has



Abbey National says applications have doubled to 25,000 a month since it reintroduced its current account in May

a total of 550,000 customers. "Very few of these are new to banking and many have come to us because they are dissatisfied with their current account," a First Direct spokesman said.

So far, First Direct claims 21 per cent of switchers, about 15,000 people, have deserted NatWest for First Direct, compared with nearly 18 per cent

(or 13,000) from Barclays and 13 per cent from Lloyds.

First Direct does not charge an overdraft fee for authorised overdrafts up to £250 and charges 16 per cent annually, but charges £35 a month for unauthorised borrowing plus interest at 26 per cent annually.

Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, claimed

this week that millions of people with ordinary bank accounts could be paying too much for overdraft facilities.

None of the big four banks — Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest — is cheap if you go into the red.

NatWest charges a £9 per month fee for going overdrawn with prior arrangement and interest at 19 per cent annually, or £9 per month for an unauthorised overdraft and interest at 29.5 per cent annually.

The Barclay's fee for arranged borrowing is £5 per month plus 19.2 annually, or 29.8 per cent annually for unauthorised borrowing and a fee of anything from £15 to £30.

NatWest, however, defended its service, saying that switching banks is a common practice and it still has 6.5 million customers who are receiving a good service.

A NatWest spokesman said: "Our charges are clearly marked on our statements. We are trying to discourage customers from becoming overdrawn without making a prior arrangement."

Save & Prosper, which offers a 24-hour banking service, has brought out a free guide to telephone banking available on 0800 829 024 with a table giving details of opening hours and services available from 12 providers. But could a bank-checking agency save you money?

These agencies, which unlike Which? make their money from investigating financial complaints against banks, also believe individuals and businesses are still paying too much for services.

One Norwich agency claims that two-thirds of all businesses may be regularly over-charged by banks.

Mark Radin, of Anglia Business Associates Ltd, says that he has secured £330,000 in bank refunds in three years for his clients in Norfolk, but suspects that overcharging takes place on a larger scale across the country, causing cashflow problems or even bankruptcy.

"Check your statements carefully and question any fees which you think are too high," he said. "It is possible the bank may sort out your problem straight away, but sometimes it can take six months to resolve."

In response, the British Bankers' Association, which represents high street banks, says that banks do make mistakes but customers should approach them first rather than paying an intermediary to pursue a claim on their behalf.

A British Bankers' Association spokeswoman dismissed Mr Radin's claims as "scaremongering". "We dispute the figure of two in three. Overcharging does happen, but so does undercharging and

no one complains about that. Errors do occur, for example when a charge of base rate plus three is agreed and then base plus eight is put into the computer by mistake.

"Checking charges is what accountants are for. If people have a problem they should approach their bank, who will make no charge for investigating the matter."

Mr Radin has been operating on a no-win no-fee basis for three years and takes 35 per cent commission for every successful claim.

Downham Train Epstein, a firm of accountants that is based in Bury, Greater Manchester, blames overcharging on the "obsessive re-organisations and changes" of the banks.

None of the big four banks is cheap if you go into the red

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Crawley in fine shape to press for Test place

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN EAST LONDON

OUTWARDLY, John Crawley has changed so much that, with his cropped hair, he could pass for a warder in *Jailhouse Rock*. Inwardly he has changed, too. The young man who set out on a Test career 16 months ago has taken longer to adjust than he, or others, imagined. Now that he is showing signs of doing so, will there be a Test place for him?

Crawley is "the man in possession", having finished the summer batting at No 3 against West Indies. However, Raymond Illingworth has signalled a clear wish for Mark Ramprakash to bat there this winter, against South Africa. Should Ramprakash be selected?

The West Indies board is threatening to punish several Test players after the reports by the captain, manager and coach accused them of causing disruption during the tour of England this year. The players, who have not been named, have been ordered to answer the charges by November 15 or face punishment.

ed, the best Crawley can hope for is a place at No 6, ahead of Robin Smith.

Yesterday, as overnight rain washed out the second day of England's four-day match against Border, Crawley had good reason to curse. He is 87 not out and wants to turn it into something big, to remind Illingworth which players are in the best form.

With 85 against an Invitation XI behind him, and runs here, Crawley is well ahead of Smith if form counts for anything, but Michael Atherton admires Smith's big-match temperament and there is every likelihood that Smith will get another chance to play himself into form against a South African A side at Kimberley next week.

Since he returned from Aus-

tralia earlier this year, having achieved only a partial success there last winter, Crawley has attempted to play straighter. He is also toning down something of his natural expansiveness, to the point where it seems he is giving an impression of somebody "bating responsibly".

He makes no bones about this adjustment of style. "I don't want to get out, I am trying to accumulate runs without making mistakes and in four-day cricket, particularly when you open or bat first wicket down, you can bat for a longer period of time. You can get a good ball early on, but if you get in, then being out for 60 or 70 is not good enough."

John Edrich, the England batting coach, has assisted him. "My technique is similar to last season but I have worked with Edrich on a few things, notably playing with softer hands in defence and playing straighter through mid-on. He tells everybody to set their sights on a hundred, not to get out for 40s."

Keen as he is to make amends for his Test failures, Crawley is not expecting any favours from Atherton, the man he followed to Manchester Grammar School, Cambridge and Lancashire. "There are players here with much better Test records than I," he said.

"I did not play especially well during the summer but I learnt a lot and I hope I am a better player for it. Robin is a better player at Test level and is going through a bad run, as anybody can. He is probably the best player of fast bowling in the team so I would not have thought that was an issue."

Crawley's well-documented efforts to reshape his body in the past six months have helped his running between the wickets and in the field. Now he is down to a shade over 13 stone, in trim, and looking forward to reshaping his international career.



Crawley, on his way to 87 not out against Border, is out to impress again today

Hussain plays vital innings

NASSER HUSSAIN, the captain, played a delightful innings of 64 as the England A side gained their second successive victory yesterday, beating a Pakistan Cricket Board XI by seven runs at Thatta in a match reduced to 45 overs a side.

After England A had been put in, Jason Pooley was out in the fourth over but the Yorkshire opener, Andrew McGrath, helped Hussain repair the damage with a second-wicket stand of 71. Hussain's innings was streets ahead of any other in terms of class, although Jason Gallian scored 28 rapid runs to boost the total.

The Board XI passed 100 with only three wickets down and, with 13 runs required off the last two overs, were still in with a chance until Kabir Khan lost patience and swung vainly at Ed Giddins.

England A XI
A. McGrath c Kabir b Anwar 34
J.C. Pooley c Ramzan b Anwar 1
N. Hussain c Jaz b Zahir 64
D.P. Ooster run out 10
R.C. Irem b Anwar 0
J.F. R. Gallian c Jaz b Zahir 28
D.W. Headley b Kabir 9
R.D. Stamp b Kabir 9
A. Smith not out 1
E.S.H. Giddins b Kabir 0
Eurus (to 4, 4, 4, 4, 4) 10
Total (44.3 overs) 186
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-101 4-103, 5-135, 6-145, 7-162, 8-162, 9-168
BOWLING: Kabir 7-3-20-4, Anwar 9-2-22-2, Zahir 9-0-40-2, Anwar 9-0-31-1, Ramzan 4-0-19-0, Jaz 6-0-30-0

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD XI
Mohammad Ramzan run out 34
Ghulam Ali c McGrath b Smith 12
Jaz Ahmed Jr c McGrath b Giddins 26
Muhammad Hameed c Ooster b Headley 30
Saad Waqar bow b Anwar 3
Zahir b Ooster 15
Saif Akhtar c Pooley b Stamp 4
Ahsan Ishaq c Jaz b Zahir 4
Javed Qadeer run out 7
Kabir Khan c Irem b Giddins 14
Anwar b not out 8
Eurus (to 3, 4, 4, 4, 4) 15
Total (48.4 overs) 181
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-58, 3-95, 4-101, 5-123, 6-123, 7-132, 8-132, 9-152
BOWLING: Giddins 6-1-30-2, Headley 9-2-29-1, Gallian 4-0-23-0, Smith 6-4-30-1, Irem 7-1-21-1, Stamp 9-2-35-2
□ Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, was dismissed for seven against South Australia in his first innings since his eight-month exile from the game following bribery accusations.

Sign right here O. J. and have a nice day

The price of O. J. Simpson memorabilia continues to go through the roof and beyond, most particularly if the trade involves items that the great man has actually signed himself. It seems that the great star of American football is more famous than ever before. How can this be? Well, football fans have long memories, and there is no doubt in my mind that these born-again O. J. fans simply wish to celebrate a great career. Surely the high prices cannot possibly have any connection with any unfortunate events that may have transpired over the past 15 months. Besides, would any one in the United States truly wish to cash in on a such a distasteful thing as a murder trial?

O. J. is planning a massive signing session at Atlantic City, the American epicentre of restraint, good taste and wholesomeness. "I want to keep this a sports show, not a 'Hey, I'm out of jail show,'" said Mike Gilbert, O. J.'s agent and guardian of the higher morality. He said that Simpson's contract for the show allows him not to sign anything he does not like — and so he won't be signing pictures of the famous slow-motion car-chase along the Los Angeles freeway system, the chase that paralysed America and filled every television channel for hours.

However, the promoter of the signing session, Mike Bertolini, has said that O. J. will sign photographs of both courtroom scenes and the chase — and that they will be available by mail order.

"That absolutely will not happen," Gilbert said. "O. J. will not sign it." Admittedly, O. J. has already signed one or two photos from the courtroom. Well, about 1,000 of them, actually. But he now regrets it. Well, we all do things we regret from time to time, don't we, O. J.? There's no going back," Gilbert wisely says. "But we're not going to do any more of those."

In line with the good taste and ambience of the entire business, Al "A.C." Cowling will not, after all, appear at the signing session. It was Al that drove the Bronco during the infamous chase.

Background info on Bertolini: pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit tax



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

fraud after baseball memorabilia event in 1989. Also pleaded guilty to assaulting one of his partners in that venture four years on. The weapon, appropriately enough, was a baseball bat.

Grande Illusion

Just because all these continentals keep beating British football teams, it doesn't mean they are better. Of course not. They just look better. Opinions of some jingoistic English footballers? *Pas du tout.* Opinions of Guy Roux, for 30 years manager of Auxerre, a footballing god in France

ing but replicas of famous holes from other courses. For just 50 bucks, you play 18 charismatic, puzzling and otherwise notorious holes from the entire puzzling and fooling world of golf. You can, for example, play the three holes of the renowned Amen Corner from Augusta. But the proprietors of the Tour 18 golf course must now face trial for violation of copyright. Their defence is that golf design cannot be protected by law. A hole in the ground is hole in the ground. Old American joke: what is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A doberman.

Soccer school

They still love Bruce in Zimbabwe. Bruce Grobbelaar, who appears in court next month on charges of fixing football matches, has plans to open a football academy for young players in Zimbabwe, where his career began. He is still the Zimbabwe goalie, not to mention living national treasure.

Buttoned up

Now that rugby union has ditched all that amateur nonsense, the gimlet-eyed marketing people are really on the ball. No opportunity for making a quick quid escapes their attention. An advertisement in a recent Wasps programme offers The Rob Andrew Shirt: "The black Wasps rugby jersey specially commissioned with the number 10 on the back and Rob's signature embossed in gold on the sleeve."

It comes in a special presentation box, in a limited (well, fairly limited) edition of just 300. Adult sizes £59.95; children's sizes a give-away at £39.95. Small problem:

Andrew has, of course, been kicked out for poaching his team-mates on behalf of his new club, Newcastle. Moral: some people are better at seizing commercial opportunities than others.



and one time mentor of Eric Cantona to boot. "French players aren't better than English players — they give the illusion of being better," he said, adding: "English players show admirable discipline. Frankly, I am jealous of that. They are disciplined at every level. They are Anglo-Saxon. We are not yet at the level of the English championship."

Hazardous

Can you copyright a hole? That is the vexed legal question in the United States. In Houston, Texas, someone has come up with the ingenious idea of making a golf course that comprises nothing

THE SUNDAY TIMES



F-16 DOWN! My story, by Captain Scott O'Grady

Five months ago the world waited to know the fate of the American fighter pilot shot down over Bosnia. For five days, nothing was heard. Then, miraculously, a rescue mission went in to pull him out. In The Sunday Times tomorrow he tells his amazing story of survival

PLAY OUR £75,000 SCRABBLE GAME

There's still big cash prizes to be won in Week 2 of our Scrabble scratchcard game. Reveal the right letters tomorrow and you could win one of seven prizes up to £2,200 or the weekly £5,000 jackpot. See the Style section



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BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Bayfield, the Northampton and England lock forward, who turned down an offer to join Harlequins

BY DAVID HANDS

they are all responsible for how the game goes — if you forwards don't win much ball then we won't see much of Jonathan anyway."

The club's decision to play him at full back, behind a back division including five internationals, even though Cardiff lost seven men required by Wales against Fiji a week later, means no place for Mike Rayer. "Mike is extremely disappointed," Donovan said. "You expect that from such a committed player. He wanted to be part of what has become such a big occasion."

Amid all the hullabaloo, Nigel Walker, the international wing, makes his comeback after a shoulder operation.

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Widnes are involved with Keighley and Salford in a three-horse race for the first division title.

Andy Platt returns after World Cup duties with England to the Widnes front row for the visit tomorrow to Rochdale, where they last lost 22 years ago.

BY DAVID POWELL

Bill Smith argues that drafting in triathlon is dangerous and that, because it lessens the chance of a strong cyclist breaking away, "all it is in effect is a run race." He denies that his son's boycott is sour grapes because he is strong on the bike and weather than his brother, John, and fellow Bay Area triathlete Simon Lessing, on the run. Lessing, the world long-distance champion, is the favourite to succeed Smith next weekend.

Spencer Smith is no stranger to quadrathlon — run-bike-run — as he won the European title in 1992 and was third in the world championship in Dallas in 1993. "Taking gold tomorrow would add another world title to my collection," he said.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Guildford v Southgate (Kings Manor School 12.30).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Newbury, Beckenham v Gore Court; Baumansmouth v Spencer; Limes v High Wycombe; Lions v Woking; Maidstone v Old Kingstons; Old Walsingham v Wokingham; Oxford Hawks v Fareham; Wimbledon v Chichester; Winchester v Anthonis; Hampshire v Surrey; Barnes v Purley; Camberley v

[illegible]

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Bridgnorth; Buxworth v Knaiss, John Player v Harbourne, North Notts v Hampton-in-Arden, Nottingham v Loughborough Students.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division: Bath Bucks v Exeter University, Cheltenham v Plymouth, Swansea v Taunton Vale, Weston-super-Mare v Robinscote.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Formby v Timperley, Halifax v Sheffield Bankers, Harrogate v Ben Rhydydd, Southport v Nelson, Warrington v Norton, Second Division Blackburn v Doncaster.

[illegible]

Chelmsford (2.30). Bluebirds v Trojans (2.0).
 Hitchin BSK: Canterbury v Bradford (12.0).
 Wimbledon v Etmouth (11.45) Second
 division: Loughboro' 5 v Sherwood 2 (2.30).
 Olton v Ealing (2.0). Reading v St Albans
 (2.0). Woking v Aldridge (12.30).

WELSH LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay v Llanfair,
 Newport v Cardiff Alb; Newtown v
 Taverfordwest, Penarth v Pontypridd.
 Swansea v Newport.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambs C v
 Larkston Ipswich II v Saracens,
 Swansong v Bexleyheath WGC v
 Loughborough Midlands, Leicester II v
 Doncaster.

Other towns
 Barnham, Barning v Mickwich, Retford v
 Tamworth, Tamworth v Bedford North
 Blackburn v York, Carlisle v Sheffield, Don
 Valley v Newcastle, Liverpool v Poynton
 South: Camberley v Dulwich, City of
 Portsmouth v Southampton, Hampstead v
 London, Winchester v Wincborne Hill
 North: W v W Winesy, West Bournemouth v
 Teddard, Colwall v Leamington St Austell v
 Wimbome, Yale v Chesham

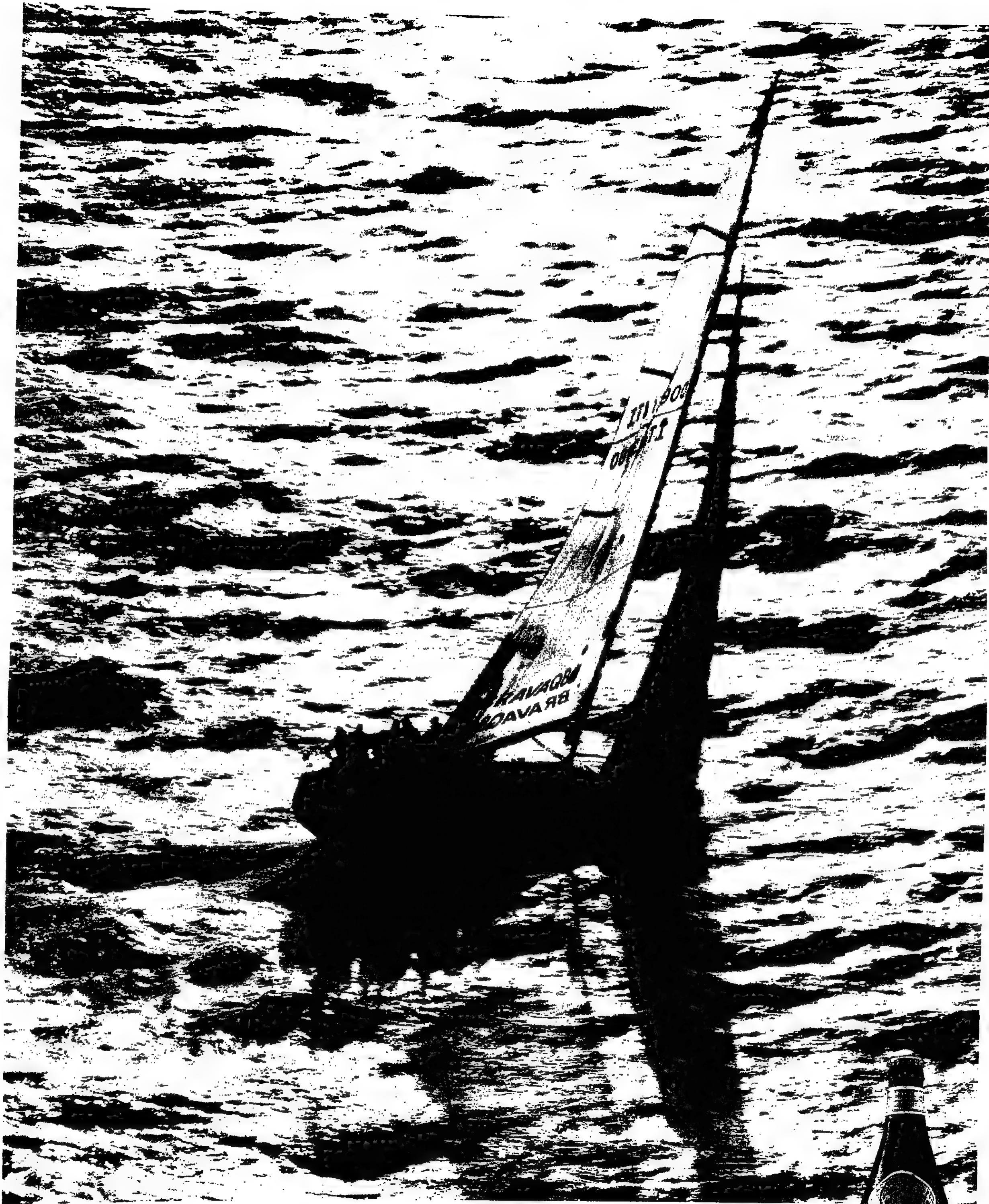
OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Buxtonshire League, Man-
 chester v London (7.30) 7UP Trophy:
 Derby v Lincoln, P

NETBALL: International: England v Cook Islands (Wembley, 1.30)

ROWING: Fellers Fours Head of the River Montlake to Putney, 1.15)

TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (Telford)

FIRST *in the* WATER.



Sanpellegrino was the official supplier of mineral water at Cowes Week and to Italy's winning Admiral's Cup team. In line with its long-standing involvement in sailing, back in 1982 Sanpellegrino established the Veteran Boat Rally with the Costa Smeralda Yacht Club.

In 1983 in the USA and 4 years later in Australia it sponsored the yacht Azzurra at the America's Cup. Sanpellegrino has also been present at the Whitbread Round the World Race. Sanpellegrino: first in the water.



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Irish challenger in peak condition for Melbourne Cup

Vintage Crop pleases Weld

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN MELBOURNE

A SENSE of optimism over Europe's prospects of landing the Melbourne Cup is not in short supply. Mark Johnston, who trains Double Trigger, has issued words of encouragement since touching down on Wednesday, and Dermot Weld, who arrived from Ireland yesterday morning, was unusually frank about Vintage Crop's chances of winning the race for the second time in three years.

Weld's public utterances in these uncertain circumstances are usually brief and non-committal. But Ireland's foremost trainer was clearly taken with the condition of Vintage Crop when assessing the horse's chances of winning the race for the second time in three years.

The message was not lost on local horsemen, who have not heard such emphatic tones on Weld's previous visits. Indeed, there is no doubting Vintage Crop has taken the journey in his stride. His coat shines in the early morning sun and he looks trained to the minute.

The nine-year-old has been demonstrably keen to break free from the sedate paces to which his lad, Dave Phillips, has largely confined him. "It's been nice to see the old horse in this frame of mind," Weld acknowledged. "We are aiming to produce him physically sound and mentally fresh on the day."

Vintage Crop has the appearance of a coiled spring. His presence here is an achievement in itself, given that he has been plagued by injuries throughout his career. Weld indicated the gelding's ailing frame would be regularly massaged by Kate Box, a physiotherapist of high repute. That is far from the course for Vintage Crop, although it was unsettling to hear Jason Weaver, who yesterday morning partnered Double Trigger in a sharp workout over 4½ furlongs, recommend a similar course of treatment for the broad-blazed stayer.



Double Trigger comes through his final piece of fast work in preparation for Tuesday's Melbourne Cup

However, the jockey was quick to play down the importance of a muscular disorder across Double Trigger's back. "I noticed it when I rode him on Thursday and it was there again this morning," Weaver said. "I thought it best to recommend the physio even though the horse quickly shrugs it off when he warms up. Otherwise, he is moving well over the ground. His wind is clean and he looks better than when I rode him in France four weeks ago."

With the big race just three days distant, those previously confident about a European victory will not welcome the

necessary attentions of Box. Interpreting such developments is difficult; perhaps the best way to gauge the situation is to trail the physiotherapist on Tuesday in the hope that she might strike a bet. Conversely, those wary of the logistical obstacles facing Europe's challengers may now look elsewhere for the winner.

Either way, a peculiar situation is unfolding in the build-up to this A\$2 million prize. Seasoned locals are adamant the outcome rests between Double Trigger and Vintage Crop, while the swelling contingent of British visitors, in their efforts to pinpoint the

winner, can be found poring frantically over the form of Australia's finest stayers. The scenario makes a refreshing change from the jingoism regularly generated by these international events.

In that respect, vital clues are plentiful today, when no fewer than 12 of the 27 Melbourne Cup acceptors run at Flemington. A feast of top-class racing has been promoted as A\$30 Million Day, when 113 horses, with collective earnings of A\$28 million, will joust for prize-money of A\$1.9 million. No fewer than 22 individual group one winners are on show.

Last year's Melbourne Cup winner, June, is among those engaged in the Mackinnon Stakes over ten furlongs. However, it looks unlikely he will make the cup field on Tuesday. His owner, Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, has intimated at this late stage that his preference is to bypass the historic contest and point instead for the Japan Cup later this month.

A decision must be made today. Lamentable though his absence would be for the host country, Weld and Johnston will silently recognise that the path to the winner's enclosure will not be so steep.

THUNDERER	
1.25 Storm Run	3.00 Wise Approach
1.55 Gospel	3.20 Silver Smile
2.30 Albans	4.00 Zebra
	4.50 Charlie Parrot

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

1.25 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,163; 2m) (8 runners)	
1 0055 DESIRE VIBRANCE 172 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0054 MEAD O'ROSBY 170 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0053 PAULIA'S BOY 151 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0052 STORM RUN 43 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0051 FLY M'ADDER 7 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
6 0050 GUNDA 224 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
7 0049 MARY BOONKS ARE BEST 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
8 0048 WHAT'S THE JOKE 171 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

1.55 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MAHES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,475; 2m) (5 runners)	
1 0056 DESIRE VIBRANCE 172 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0055 MEAD O'ROSBY 170 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0054 PAULIA'S BOY 151 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0053 STORM RUN 43 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0052 FLY M'ADDER 7 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

2.30 TANGLEFOOT ELITE HURDLE (Grade II: £13,393; 2m) (3 runners)	
1 0057 ATOURS 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0056 CLIFTON BURY 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0055 AERON 13 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

□ Doran's Pride and Sound Man run at Navan today. Doran's Pride, winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March, runs in the Lismullen Hurdle, while Sound Man takes part in the Portlaoise EBF Handicap Chase.

THE TIMES
RACING
Commentary
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Results
Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL
Reports and scores from the FA Carling Premiership
Call 0891 555 562
Reports and scores from the English Football League
Call 0891 555 512
Calls cost 39p per min plus 10p per min at all other times

3.00 BADGER BEER CHASE (Limited handicap: £13,940; 3m 110yd) (8 runners)	
1 0058 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0057 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0056 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0055 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0054 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
6 0053 MUTUAL TRUST 141 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
7 0052 MARY BOONKS ARE BEST 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
8 0051 WHAT'S THE JOKE 171 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

FORM FOCUS	
GRANGE BRAKE 12 of 23 in 3 James Joyce Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. BRACKENFELD best winner 12 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm). BAS DE LAINE 2nd of 5 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm). TUE OF PEACE 10 of 12 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm). MUTUAL TRUST 141 of 141 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm). MARY BOONKS ARE BEST 10 of 10 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm). WHAT'S THE JOKE 171 of 171 in 4-runner handicap Chase at Wetherby (2m 110yd, good to firm).	

3.30 BATCOMBE HURDLE (£2,385; 2m) (6 runners)	
1 0059 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0058 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0057 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0056 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0055 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
6 0054 MUTUAL TRUST 141 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

4.00 J & K J & SONS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,732; 2m 50) (5 runners)	
1 0060 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0059 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0058 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0057 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0056 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

4.30 TRIPLEWIT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,319; 2m) (10 runners)	
1 0061 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0060 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0059 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0058 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0057 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

2.45 PEATY SANDY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,380; 3m 60) (4 runners)	
1 0062 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0061 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0060 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0059 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

3.20 SWIFT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,685; 2m 40) (3 runners)	
1 0063 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0062 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0061 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

3.55 JACKAWD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,528; 3m) (4 runners)	
1 0064 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0063 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0062 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0061 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS	
Doncaster	
1.20 BELL LOVE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,484; 2m) (16 runners)	
1 0065 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0064 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0063 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0062 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0061 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

2.20 SCOTCH HILLS HOLIDAYERS NOVICES CHASE (£3,599; 3m 20) (7 runners)	
1 0066 EVER SMILE 165 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 0065 BUCKLE UP 158 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 0064 BAS DE LAINE 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 0063 WISE APPROACH 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 0062 TUE OF PEACE 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
1.05 Daily Starlight, 1.35 Sounds Golden, 2.05 Silver Groom, 2.40 Far Senior, 3.15 Southolt, 3.45 Blessed Oliver, 4.15 Some Toddler.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
1.05 FIREWORK NIGHT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£3,355; 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1253 ALLTIME DANCER 15 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 1252 OCEAN HARK 7 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 1251 VOLUNTEER 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 1250 BIRTHDAY BOY 47 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 1249 DAILY STARLIGHT 21 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
6 1248 NAVA VA KERRAN 15 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
7 1247 SHARED 11 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
8 1246 PORTER 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

1.35 BONFIRE PARTY NOVICES CHASE (£4,410; 3m 110yd) (4 runners)	
1 2541 EQUITY PLAYER 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 2540 BLACK ANDOR SP 10 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 2539 SOUNDS GOLDEN 15 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 2538 TOMMYGUN 17 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

2.05 CATESSY HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,947; 2m 110yd) (6 runners)	
1 3201 SILVER GROOM 16 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
2 3200 BLESSED OLIVER 30 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
3 3199 MASTER JUBIN 12 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
4 3198 SQUARE WORK 28 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
5 3197 MAGNAT 15 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn
6 3196 BOODICEA 15 (J. J. O'Brien) 5-11-0	8 McQuinn

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	

COURSE SPECIALISTS	
TRAINERS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	
JOCKEYS: Wm 25, R 25, S 25, T 25, U 25, V 25, W 25, X 25, Y 25, Z 25	</

Saturday portrait: Juninho, by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

Entertaining great hopes of Brazilian in Mannion's image

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

He will stand on Teesside this afternoon before a welcoming committee of 30,000 Middlesbrough folk. Those in the highest seats of the new Riverside Stadium had better take field-glasses. For down below, in the centre circle, they will see, and they will hope to cheer for many a day, Juninho, one of the smallest but most appreciable talents in the game of football.

He stands 1.64 metres, a little above 5ft 4in. He scales just over nine stone after a hearty meal. He wears a child's boots. But boy, can Juninho play, and how, in this moment when British football at last admits to widespread humility, it needs to see him.

Juninho is no child. He turned 22 last February, and though a physical lightweight, he has been competing for São Paulo in the Brazilian league where, as his new manager, Bryan Robson, has been witness to the forward's even his frame have sometimes been so crude, so cynical, they make David Batty look like a mild English bulldog.

But focus in on the player. At his side when he is introduced today will be Jan Aage Fjortoft, the Norwegian, who said: "We will help him. Not because we want to be Mother Teresa, but we need his quality, we need his personality."

Fjortoft, who arrived with plenty of bulk and muscle, admitted that transition from anywhere to the bustle of the English game is tough. But the Norwegian, the little Brazilian and the demanding Englishman all acknowledge that there are no questions about the size of Juninho's heart, none about his quickness to evade the crude tackles, or about his willingness to make monkeys out of those who would scythe him down.

As a special talent, Juninho wears in the Brazil national team the shirt of the No 10, formerly the preserve of Pelé. He, now the Sports Minister of Brazil, has called Juninho the finest talent in the modern game. So has Mario Zagallo, who, associated with Brazil for 36 years and through four World Cup-winning teams, astonished even his own countrymen

when, 18 months ago, he handed that shirt to this player.

"Who's the little boy wearing the No 10?" Dunga, the Schwarzenegger of Brazilian football and the national captain, asked. An hour and a half later, after Juninho's inauguration in Brazil's colours, Dunga had the grace to go down on his knees, to tell Juninho that now he saw what the veteran Zagallo saw, that he would never doubt his right or his ability again.

Taken in dressing-room jest, it was of course exaggerated. But Juninho himself is prone to that. When the media pushed and prodded him about his diminutive size when first Juninho visited the docklands stadium to where Middlesbrough have relocated, this Tom Thumb figure, dressed for the first time in Middlesbrough red, stuck out his Bruce Forsyth chin and said determinedly: "I'm

'He wants to be the best player in the world and he does not fear the biting wind on Teesside'

two inches bigger than Maradona."

The little liar. At full stretch he may be a shade taller than Diego Maradona. But Argentina's maestro has the muscular hulk of a bull; Juninho has the sinewy frame of a whipper. He relies on fleetness, courage, and on bold imagination to outwit the body-wreckers.

He wants to become the best player in the world. No equivocation, no doubt. He does not fear the biting northerly wind, and he counters that he will bring plenty of gloves, coats and scarves. He swears that, though samba and *sertaneja* (a Latin-American form of country music) are the core of what moves him, football is a sport best played in the cold.

He could have fooled us, for seemingly ever since Charles Miller, a Scottish student, took a ball out to São Paulo a century

ago, the British have wondered how they would ever get it back off these gifted people, these marvelous improvisers.

Robson has paid £4.75 million, a Brazilian record, to pair the Latin continent's bewitching elf with the closest these islands has in that age group, Nick Barmby. For that money he lands Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — for that is his christened name; Juninho, meaning little boy, is the obvious nickname. The family comes too, for the greatest challenge to this player's integration into such a foreign clime is that he never left the modest family home in São Paulo's East End location of Parque São Lucas. There, with his father, Osvaldo Giroldo Sr, his mother, Lucia, and sister, Gisela, he was never allowed to think of himself as a star. Such is the close-knit community of this working-class, pollution-ridden sector of São Paulo that the player whose earnings have suddenly rocketed fivefold (reportedly to £13,000 per week) would never be allowed to increase the size of his head.

What are the British, who have lost the feel for their game, expecting from him? Those who witnessed the Umbro Cup last June were immediately captivated by this player, who drew particular attention from Barry Venison.

Injured at the time, and thus out of the England squad, Venison gave the benefit of his expertise on television. "We need David Batty to upset them," he warned of the Brazilians. True to form Batty did try to put his mark on Juninho. It was England's undoing. Twice the stretcher came on for Juninho. Twice Juninho trotted back onto the field, a little sparrow with a big constitution. He turned the match, first with a sorcerer's free kick that swerved over the defensive wall in the manner even Brazilians thought was lost to history. Then Juninho approached England's young right back, Gary Neville, flicked the ball over the defender, scampered beneath Neville's arm-pit and repossessed the round object that he has been besotted with throughout his lifetime.

Brazilians, though, had doubted that Juninho would grow tall enough to make it in football. Just



as Bryan Robson was rejected as too skinny for Newcastle United as an adolescent, so Juninho was cast aside, made to travel 80 kilometres to a part-time provincial team, Euzano. Then, at 20, he entered the big league in São Paulo, not with Corinthians, who had turned him away in boyhood, but with the São Paulo club, managed by Telé Santana.

He is the proudest protector of the joy in *jogo bonito*, pretty play, that the world game possesses. "Small Juninho may be," Santana

said last month, "but he feared nobody, nor anything." Santana decided that even the food prepared by Juninho's mother, rice and black beans, was not the full answer. He sent Juninho to the big-city biochemists, put him through excruciating weight-training and body-building and, though the visual results appear negligible, Juninho is grateful to Santana for that care and trusting attention.

Sometime soon, if it has not already happened, Juninho will

spot a frail old-timer at the Riverside Stadium. He will see how this man's presence is held in awe. When he asks, when they meet, Juninho will learn that this is Wilf Mannion, the inside forward who scored 11 goals from 26 games for England and who, some say, was Brazilian-born and raised and made godlike on Teesside.

Mannion played 350 times for Middlesbrough from 1936 to 1954 and scored 110 goals. They say he had balletic balance, a hypnotic affinity with the ball, an inner

toughness. Juninho, whose tally is 15 goals in 101 São Paulo matches, comes with a tall reputation but with much to live up to and things to learn. "He will probably know only four or five words," Fjortoft said, "he will know pound, and thank you, and goodbye." But the word that we should learn, by three o'clock this afternoon, is *bemvindo* — welcome. With 30,000 Teessiders roaring him on, the young Brazilian might even reach two inches taller than Maradona.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v MANCHESTER UNITED

Cantona has been almost subdued since returning from his 248 days 18 hours and 57 minutes in exile but at least Keane has maintained the recent United tradition for seeing red mist. Rumours abound that Don King, he of the electric hair, is considering a vice-presidency at Old Trafford. Today's game will test the temper of a saint, United having lost players — Hughes and Cantona — to dismissals in successive league matches at Highbury. Platt will start for Arsenal, for the first time since August, instead of Parleur or Keane.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 4 Manchester United 0.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 1-0, 1-2, 2-1, 1-0, 3-1, 1-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-0.

ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, L. Dixon, A. Adams, S. Bould, N. Winterburn, P. Merson, R. Parleur, M. Keane, D. Platt, G. Helder, D. Bergkamp, I. Wright, J. Hartson, J. Jensen, V. Barten.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, S. Bruce, G. Pallister, D. Irwin, R. Keane, N. Butt, E. Cantona, J. Gigg, A. Cole, P. Scholes, D. Beckham, L. Sharpe, B. McClair, P. Neville, K. Pilkington.

CHELSEA v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Chelsea have finally concluded the signing of Dan Petrescu after conflicting medical reports put the £2.5 million deal on hold. Trouble is, the Romanian defender cannot play against his former club today because his work permit has not come through. Shame, a touch of spice would not have gone amiss in this distinctly drab-looking fixture, with Chelsea having leaked seven goals in their past two Premiership outings and Wednesday having won only once in six. Has all the marriage of Yawande, USA.

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-0, 2-1, 4-0, 0-3, 0-2, 1-1, 1-1.

CHELSEA (from): D. Kluzevski, R. Gull, S. Clarke, G. Helt, E. Johnson, D. Lee, F. Sinclair, A. Barnes, A. Myers, N. Spence, G. Peacock, D. West, C. Burrey, E. Newton, M. Stein, M. Hughes, J. Spencer, P. Furlong.

SHEFFIELD WED (from): K. Pressman, P. Atherton, I. Nolan, D. Walker, K. Ingheson, A. Sinton, M. Pennington, G. Weddie, M. Williams, D. Hart, G. Whittingham, M. Bright, A. Pearce, L. Britton, M. Degryse, O. Donaldson.

COVENTRY v TOTTENHAM

Tottenham's capitulation, from 2-0 up to 3-2 down, in their Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie at Highbury Road ten days ago must count as one of the most abject reverses of the season. Or perhaps, from a Sky Blue viewpoint, one of the most stirring fight-backs. Goals aplenty are again likely this afternoon, with Coventry's Premiership form horrendous and Tottenham having subsequently scored the demons with a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United. If Big Ron loses Ndlovu with a hamstring injury, forget another home win.

LAST SEASON: Coventry 0 Tottenham 4.

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 4-3, 3-1, 1-1, 0-0, 2-0, 1-2, 1-0, 1-0, 0-4.

COVENTRY (from): J. Flann, A. Plocher, D. Buss, D. Rennie, M. Hall, P. Telfer, P. Williams, K. Richardson, J. Bello, D. Dudgeon, P. Ndlovu, M. Lewis, N. Lamley, J. Darby, W. Bolland, D. Burrows, J. Gould.

TOTTENHAM (from): I. Walker, D. Austin, C. Calderwood, G. Mabbutt, C. Wilson, J. Doozill, D. Dumitrescu, D. Howells, D. Fenech, R. Rosenthal, S. Campbell, G. McKelvie, R. Fox, C. Armstrong, E. Sherrington.

MANCHESTER CITY v BOLTON

"We're doomed, we're doomed," Corporal Fraser lamented constantly in *Clash's* Army. City supporters must feel the same, after only 11 Premiership matches and with Alan Ball in permanent wings mode. He was at it again yesterday, after the victory of Tottenham. A defeat from Saracens, based their wage demands to Maine Road. "It was absolutely ridiculous," Ball bellowed. "We've let them know our feelings and told them the matter is closed." Bolton could inflict more grief this afternoon.

LAST SEASON: No game.

10-YEAR RECORD: No fixture.

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E. Innes, J. Foster, K. Gull, K. Symons, R. Edgah, S. Jones, G. Griffiths, G. Filizola, N. Summerville, N. Quinn, I. Risher, M. Brown, G. Craney, M. Margerson.

BOLTON (from): K. Brannigan, S. McKee, C. Peden, G. Bagnall, J. Phillips, A. Stubbs, P. Thompson, S. Curtis, D. Lee, M. Pashayan, J. McGinley, M. Patterson, S. Green, F. DeFreitas, A. Dawson.

MIDDLESBROUGH v LEEDS

Twenty-one players might as well roll out up at the Riverside Stadium today. All eyes will be on Osvaldo Giroldo Junior, the little Brazilian, who will test the temper of a saint, United having lost players — Hughes and Cantona — to dismissals in successive league matches at Highbury. Platt will start for Arsenal, for the first time since August, instead of Parleur or Keane.

LAST SEASON: Middlesbrough 1 Leeds 0.

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-0, 0-2, 4-1.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G. Walsh, N. Cox, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, P. Whelan, C. Morris, N. Barmby, J. Pollock, J. A. Fjortoft, R. Mustoe, Juninho, C. Higgin, A. Moore, C. Moreno, C. Liddle.

LEEDS (from): J. Luke, G. Kelly, D. Whitham, R. Johnson, J. Pennington, N. Worthington, B. Deane, C. Palmer, G. McAllister, A. Couzens, A. Yabosh, N. Whelan, R. Bowman, P. Beasley, P. Mashinga, M. Beasley.

NEWCASTLE v LIVERPOOL

Big names, big game — a meeting that could steal some of the thunder from Juninho's public bow down at the AI at Highbury. "It's a special occasion," Kevin Keegan said, "it's a special occasion." Both clubs suffered hiccup this week — Newcastle at Tottenham in the Premiership, Liverpool against Bradford in the Uefa Cup — and their followers will need swift reassurance that all is well. Collymore has not gone awol, according to Roy Evans, and will be in the Liverpool squad if he comes up.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 1 Liverpool 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-2, 1-2, 2-2, 2-0, 1-1.

NEWCASTLE (from): S. Hiskin, W. Barton, J. Barendse, D. Peacock, S. Howey, C. Gillespie, R. Lee, L. Clark, D. Givens, L. Ferdinand, P. Beardsley, R. Elliott, S. Ball, P. Abbott, P. Smith.

LIVERPOOL (from): J. Lacey, J. McAllister, P. Bebb, M. Wright, J. Scullis, S. Harkness, S. McManis, A. Barnes, J. Rodgers, P. Rush, R. Fowler, S. Collymore, N. Ruddock, M. Kennedy, A. Warner.

SOUTHAMPTON v QPR

Ray Wilks reckons 15 minutes is too long to spend in the dressing-room at half-time. "I'd rather have five minutes out in the middle than three ruddy chaps," he said. Super idea, Ray. At the moment, Matthew Le Tissier needs as much time as he can get to refresh his body and soul, such is his apparent disengagement with life. Still, at least he has agreed another 12 months on the three-year contract he signed in May last year, which may well keep him at the dingy Dell for the rest of his career. Some players are easily pleased.

LAST SEASON: Southampton 3 QPR 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 5-1, 0-1, 1-4, 0-2, 3-1, 2-1, 1-2, 0-1, 2-1.

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D. Bassett, J. Dodd, F. Bessell, K. Moriku, J. Naylor, R. Hall, B. Venison, M. Le Tissier, N. Maddison, G. Watson, N. Shipperley, M. Harewood, D. Hughes, P. Tisdale, F. Bennett, B. Grobbelaar.

QPR (from): J. Sommer, D. Beresford, K. Healy, S. Vass, D. Hesketh, A. McDonald, R. Bennett, S. Barker, A. Impey, N. Zola, R. Watkins, Holloway, T. Sinclair, K. Gellen, D. Ditch, S. Oostrom, M. Brazier, A. Roberts.

WEST HAM v ASTON VILLA

Are West Ham, five matches unbeaten in the Premiership, heading for mid-table obscurity and the prospect of no relegation worries in the new year? Harry Redknapp believes so and, for once, has the statistics to back his claims. Somewhat, it will not seem the same without a back-up against the well-but-we'll-show-'em light at Upton Park. Villa visit this afternoon, with their early season surge having tapered off into a none-too-convincing seventh place. West Ham's new-found confidence should see them off.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 1 Aston Villa 0.

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 1-1, 2-2, 3-1, 0-0, 1-0.

WEST HAM (from): L. Milosavski, S. Potts, M. Ripper, A. Martin, J. Dicks, R. Slater, J. Monaghan, D. Hutchinson, J. Bishop, A. Collins, A. Hughes, D. Williams, M. Boag, J. Hartson, K. Rowland, L. Sealey, S. Tazewell.

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Bonnici, G. Charles, U. Ehiogu, G. Southgate, P. McGrath, A. Wright, J. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Townsend, S. Milosavski, D. Yorke, R. Smeeta, T. Johnson, N. Spink.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	11	28	+19	WWWWD
2 Manchester Utd	11	25	+12	DDWWW
3 Liverpool	11	23	+10	WDWWW
4 Arsenal	11	21	+9	WLWWL
5 Nottm Forest	11	21	+7	DDWWW
6 Middlesbrough	11	21	+5	WWWWD
7 Aston Villa	11	20	+5	DDWLW
8 Leeds	11	20	+4	WWLDW
9 Tottenham	11	16	+2	WWLDD
10 Chelsea	11	15	-3	LWLWL
11 Blackburn	11	14	+1	SLWWW
12 West Ham	11	13	-2	LWWDD
13 Sheffield Wed	11	11	-4	LDLWL
14 QPR	11	10	-7	LWLDD
15 Wimbledon	11	10	-10	LLDLL
16 Everton	11	9	-4	LLDLD
17 Southampton	11	9	-8	LLWLW
18 Bolton	11	8	-10	LLDLW
19 Coventry	11	7	-13	LLDLL
20 Manchester City	11	3	-18	LLDLL

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v WIMBLEDON

Joe Kinner, Wimbledon's beleaguered manager, has already used 24 players in the Premiership this season. He may have to enlist a few more — apparently, A. Tostey is available on Monday — if the crisis of Casualty proportions does not subside soon. Forest, Britain's finest club and only club left in Europe, carry on remorselessly, seeking their 25th successive Premiership match without defeat. Everything points to a Forest victory unless Kinner can call on the Crazy Gang spirit of old. Nottingham will do.

LAST SEASON: Nottingham Forest 3 Wimbledon 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-2, 0-0, 0-1, 0-1, 2-1, 4-2, 1-1, 3-1.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Croxall, D. Lytle, C. Cooper, S. Chellie, S. Pearce, S. Stone, C. Bart-Williams, I. Wain, J. Lee, S. Roy, S. Gennard, A. Hesketh, D. Phillips, A. Grant, P. McGinley, M. Harty.

WIMBLEDON (from): P. Hesketh, K. Cunningham, A. Kinnear, G. Stone, C. Perry, A. Reeves, V. Jones, R. Earle, O. Leonardson, M. Gayle, D. Holdsworth, A. Clarke, M. Harford, G. Bisset, J. Goodman, J. Eust.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today's fixtures

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Monday

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday

Everton v Blackburn (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football

Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon (live)

EVERTON v BLACKBURN

Blackburn showed a glimmer of intent against Legia Warsaw in midweek yet still became the first of the 16 clubs in the European Cup Champions' League to be eliminated. Everton displayed a lot of determination against Feyenoord, in the Uefa Cup, but were also consigned to the European scrapheap. Blackburn are likely to recover the quacker, with Bothwell and McKinlay eligible again, while Everton should have Kennedy back in the ranks. Domestic form gives the Scousers little hope.

LAST SEASON: Everton 1 Blackburn 2.

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 0-3, 1-2.

EVERTON (from): N. Southall, E. Barrett, S. Barlow, M. Jackson, C. Short, D. Watson, G. Abbott, D. Unsworth, A. Finchcliffe, B. Home, A. Grant, A. Linper, J. Ebbrell, G. Stuart, P. Ridsdall, A. Kinnear, D. Arnold.

BLACKBURN (from): T. Flowers, H. Berg, J. Kerr, C. Hendry, I. Pearson, T. Sharnwood, D. Batty, P. Warrington, S. Ripley, A. Shrewsbury, M. Sutton, G. Le Saux, M. Holmes, R. Munn, L. Schuster, W. McKinlay.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	11	28	+19	WWWWD
2 Manchester Utd	11	25	+12	DDWWW
3 Liverpool	11	23	+10	WDWWW
4 Arsenal	11	21	+9	WLWWL
5 Nottm Forest	11	21	+7	DDWWW
6 Middlesbrough	11	21	+5	WWWWD
7 Aston Villa	11	20	+5	DDWLW
8 Leeds	11	20	+4	WWLDW
9 Tottenham	11	16	+2	WWLDD
10 Chelsea	11	15	-3	LWLWL
11 Blackburn	11	14	+1	SLWWW
12 West Ham	11	13	-2	LWWDD
13 Sheffield Wed	11	11	-4	LDLWL
14 QPR	11	10	-7	LWLDD
15 Wimbledon	11	10	-10	LLDLL
16 Everton	11	9	-4	LLDLD
17 Southampton	11	9	-8	LLWLW
18 Bolton	11	8	-10	LLDLW
19 Coventry	11	7	-13	LLDLL
20 Manchester City	11	3	-18	LLDLL

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today's fixtures

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Monday

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday

Everton v Blackburn (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football

Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson and Julian Dwyer

10

SPORT 47

TENNIS: Pete Sampras, the top seed, set up a semi-final meeting with his fellow American, Jim Courier, at the Paris Indoor Open yesterday by overwhelming Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3. Sampras served 15 aces in a match which lasted 74 minutes. Hlasek was clearly feeling the effects of his thrilling three-set win over Marc Rosset on Wednesday and was never able to get into the match. Sampras, who takes over as the world No 1 from Andre Agassi on Monday, has beaten Courier in 13 of their 16 previous encounters.

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RUGBY UNION 42
CARD FE PRIMO
FOR RETURN
OF PRODIGAL SON

THEY'RE BURNING THE POPE IN LEWES TONIGHT



They're
burning
the Pope
in Lewes
tonight

Page 4

PLUS: Derwent May's
Feather Report, page 4

FOLLIES AND ISLES TO ESCAPE TO THIS CHRISTMAS



Follies
and isles
to escape
to this
Christmas

Page 16

PLUS: Two views of
Australia, page 18

THE JAILER WHO BECAME MANDELA'S FRIEND



The jailer
who
became
Mandela's
friend

Page 15

PLUS: Kaufman on
Hattersley, page 14

STREET-CRED BIKES TO DELIGHT THE CHILDREN



Street-cred
bikes to
delight
the
children

Page 13

PLUS: Food by post for
Christmas, page 6

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995



Rudyard Kipling, whose lucent books are not now read in India, wrote the following lines, which struck me fiercely as a boy. They are from his *Epitaphs of the War*, to a Hindu sepoy in France:

This man in his own country prayed we know not to what Powers.

We pray Them to reward him for his bravery in ours.

These lines made my throat go dry, from boyish pride and awkward grief. The dead soldier's powers, you see, were my powers too.

By a process that Kipling would understand better than the modern Indians who do not read him, those powers have now arrived in Neasden. An Indian temple — built of

marble, granite and limestone — has come, crumb by careful crumb, to a clumsy English suburb. At 54-62 Meadow Garth (off the Brentfield Road), London NW10 8HD, a do-it-yourself place of worship sits incongruously within sight of the IKEA home-furnishing tower; a raucous Eng... land roar away — or a pop-star's sordid shout — from Wembley stadium. The Hindu religion has ever aimed at accommodating itself to circumstances.

Neasden, one might say, is a most intriguing circumstance. Satirical *Private Eye* magazine's cultural punching bag — "Naffville" or, better, "Naffabad" — is home today to thousands of Indians, most from East Africa. It has Britain's richest seam of Patels, Shahs and Desais, all of whom

By Tunku Varadarajan

arrived in 1972 with just £5 in their pockets (as public legend would have it), a worriedly crammed suitcase in one hand, Ugandan expulsion orders in the other.

Uganda is another rich chuckle-word in *Private Eye* (or used to be), but to Neasden's Gujaratis it became, under Idi Amin, a place of terror and torment, of lost hopes and businesses, of an ethnic cleansing which happened before the phrase itself was minted. Kampala was the Krajina of the Gujarati man in the English corner shop.

Evicted, the Gujaratis came to this country in their thousands, to Leicester, Tooting, Wembley. To Neasden. Twenty-three years

later, they have built their own temple there.

I was born in an urban Hindu home, awkwardly assembled in its attitude to faith, my father religious, my mother less so. A small shrine in the house (called the "puja room") was where my father, small brother and I recited Sanskrit scriptures every evening, cross-legged on the floor, our foreheads touched with sacred ash. This was part of our natural routine: cricket, spinning tops, kites, sneaked cigarettes in the back garden, the stamp album, marble-playing and other sorts of contests all had to stop at prayer time. We did not always come willingly, my brother and I, and our father often had to warn us to be good.

The *Vishnu Sahasranamam* — the thousand names of Vishnu — I learnt by heart, as

well as prayers to Shiva, Ganesh, Lakshmi, Hanuman, Murugan and others. Their images at home seemed always benign: small, usually reproduced in brass, swathed in strips of silk, the more precious kept under lock and key. How unlike their counterparts in Indian temples they were.

My relationship with temples, with their bolder idols and the press of mass devotion, started badly. It took me many years to overcome my fear of those temples. My first real introduction to them came in 1968. After five years as a diplomat in New York, my father was posted back to India. My parents, sensing that it was their last chance to enjoy a holiday together — unburdened by

Continued on page 3, col 1



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Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

ART AND POWER: Tyranny rules at the Hayward Gallery, where the monstrous ambitions of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin dominate everything on display. All three dictators realised how important art and architecture could be in boosting their power. They wanted painters and sculptors to be instruments of propaganda, and crushed anyone who showed an independent spirit. The results, especially in Germany and the Soviet Union, were disastrous. Artists became supine illustrators of totalitarian dogma, while architects prepared towering monuments to megalomania. Relief is supplied by Picasso's *Guernica*, commissioned by the Spanish Republic for its pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exhibition. And exiled Germans, from Beckmann to Kokoschka, managed to maintain their individual visions despite the persecution.

Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-261 0121), until January 21. **G**

NEW WORLD IMAGERY: Since the 1920s, art in Jamaica has developed a strong identity of its own. The liveliness of the island's current scene is celebrated in an enjoyable show at the Arnolfini in Bristol. Most of the painters, notably Leonard Daley and Raz Dizzy, have a pronounced expressionist flavour. Daley is proud of his lack of professional training, and flourishes on instinct. Milton George is more aware of European painters, and Dizzy's excitable brushwork stands out. A quieter and more dreamlike approach governs Anna Henriques's secretive drawers full of objects, while David Boxer's collages prove that melancholy memories of colonisation cannot easily be ousted. But the show's overall mood is energetic and optimistic.

Arnolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0117 9299191), until November 12.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

DAVID MURRAY/ORNETTE COLEMAN: The American tenor player David Murray always seems to have half-a-dozen new albums out on different labels at any given time. Live appearances, in this country at least, have been less prolific. On this occasion he goes on tour with his UK Posse, a band originally put together for the



Ornette Coleman plays at the Festival Hall, London

Bath Festival last year, with the effervescent Gerard Presencer on trumpet and Orphy Robinson on marimba. Ornette Coleman, meanwhile, continues to dabble with trumpet and violin, video installations and his hip-hopping electric band, Prime Time.

Murray: Belfast Festival - The

Guinness Spot (01232 666321), Tues 7, Wed 8, 8.30pm: **Top of O'Reilly's** (0115 941 9741), Thur 9, 8pm: **Arnolfini, Bristol** (01179 299191), Fri 10, 8pm: **Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford** (0181-568 1176), Sat 11, 10.30pm.

Coleman: Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Wed 8, 7.30pm.

RANDY SANDKE: When Carnegie Hall recently mounted an all-star tribute to Louis Armstrong, it was Randy Sandke's frisky big band arrangements of the Hot Five classics that stood out most vividly. A youthful sideman with Benny Goodman in the King of Swing's final years, Sandke has carved a niche for himself as a formidable mainstream trumpeter. On Thursday and Saturday his group will be joined by another gifted American revivalist, the tenor saxophonist Harry Allen.

The Hungry Horse, Kenley Rd, New Malden (0181-949 7274), Mon 6: **Eden Court Theatre, Bishop's Road, Inverness** (01463 234234), Tues 7: **Pizza Express, Dean St, London W1** (0171-439 0747), Thur 9 to Sat 11, from 8.30pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BIRMINGHAM BIRTHDAY: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 75th birthday this week with two anniversary concerts that mix Beethoven's Choral Symphony with specially commissioned new pieces by John Adams and Oliver Knussen. Also, on Saturday, the orchestra is holding an open day, with many free events planned throughout the afternoon. There is plenty to celebrate. Under Sir Simon Rattle's leadership, the CSO has risen to the top rank, and is probably unsurpassed for adventurous programming. This autumn's series of all the Beethoven symphonies has been a particular triumph, since Rattle and his orchestra made even this much-travelled repertoire seem fresh and exciting. Let us hope that Rattle sticks around for at least a few of the next 75 years.

Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Fri 10, Sat 11, 7.30pm. **G**

PREVIN RETURNS: After a series of concerts with his new principal conductor, Sir Colin Davis, the London Symphony Orchestra now makes music with one of its former bosses, André Previn. He returns to the Barbican in the company of the peerless German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter. She plays the Beethoven Violin Concerto, which is not exactly an unusual choice. But before that, Previn conducts a real rarity, and an attractive one at that: the Symphony for Classical Orchestra written in 1947 by the American neoclassical composer Harold Shapero. **Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2** (0171-638 8891), Wed 8, Thur 9, 7.30pm. **G**

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Who would have thought that J.B. Priestley's moralising thriller would pick up awards galore in both London and New York, and now make yet another comeback in the heart of the West End? The reason, of course, is Stephen Daldry's stunningly inventive direction, which combines with Ian McEwan's oddball sets to transform the painstakingly chronicled tale of an Edwardian family's destruction of a harmless girl into a majestic denunciation of our century's callousness, hubris and greed.



Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* at the Garrick

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Heinrich Kerr's Portrait of Hitler is among the images on display at the Hayward Gallery in London

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5085), Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; matinees: Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

RAT IN THE SKULL: Is Daldry's bravura imagination hijacking central London? This time, he has ripped out the theatre's stalls, put steel walkways and a tiny, earth-fitted platform in their place, and brought new intensity to his revival of Ron Hutchinson's marvellous play about the violent grilling of a suspected IRA man by an RUC cop. With Rufus Sewell as the victim and Tony Doyle as his persecutor, the effect is of a battle between a modern-day Cain and Abel, two Ulster brothers bonded as much as separated by a shared history and a common land.

Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 5122), Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinees: Thur, Sat, 3pm. **G**

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

JOHN KEATS 1795-1821: As the year progresses, the celebrations of the bi-centenary of Keats's birth gather momentum. The British Library's contribution, an augmented version of the show seen earlier in the year at Dove Cottage in the Lake District, draws on the Library's unrivalled collection of first editions and manuscripts, as well as portraits and other relics

borrowed from elsewhere. Here one can actually gaze on the original manuscript of the *Ode to a Nightingale*, and observe how Victorian artists' obsession with Keats produced some key works of 19th-century British art. If the man himself remains shadowy compared with his writings, that is probably just as it should be.



The dying Keats from the British Library exhibition

British Library Exhibition Galleries, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-412 7111), Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until January 28. **G**

BUILDINGS IN PROGRESS: Sir John Soane seems to have been unusual among architects in taking

a passionate interest in the progress of building on his main designs. It was his regular practice to send off pupils to make pictorial records of construction on the Bank of England, Dulwich Picture Gallery and his additions to Chelmsford Hospital. This was partly so that he could keep a wary eye on possibly shoddy building practices and partly because he regarded the valuable training. Much of the art included is vivid in itself as well as informative about Regency methods of construction.

Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 (0171-405 2107), Tues to Sat, 10am-5pm; also first Tues in month 6-9pm, until March 9.

DANCE

John Percival

SWAN LAKE: Tchaikovsky's music, but swans with a difference in Matthew Bourne's new treatment for his company Adventures in Motion Pictures. Instead of a Swan Queen, Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper appears on loan to play the mysterious swan who fascinates the hero; former RB ballerina Fiona Chadwick is Siegfried's mother. Do not expect the sort of clever, camp jokes on which Bourne based his popular reinterpretations of *The Nutcracker* and *La Sylphide*; he says he is playing this one straight, taking his ideas from the music. *Les Brotherson's*

name promises well for the design, and the New London Orchestra will be in the pit with David Lloyd Jones conducting. **Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, London EC1** (0171-713 6003), Thur 9, 7.30pm; matinees: Sat, Thur, 2.30pm, until November 25.

DANCE UMBRELLA: Final week of this year's London-wide festival of new dance. Richard Alston's new programme (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm) and the Japanese Ariadne (The Place, 8pm) finish tonight, and Aletta Collins (Riverside, 7.30pm) tomorrow. That leaves only the gifted and often outrageous Javier de Frutos at the Purcell Room, with pianists Elena Riu and Peter Bridges (Tues, Wed, 8pm), and the London premiere of Second Stride's *Badenheim*, at Riverside (Thur to next Sat, 7.30pm) with a cast of dancers, actors, singers and musicians in Ian Spink's choreography and Orlando Cough's music. **Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1** (0171-960 4242); **The Place Theatre, Dukes Road, London WC1** (0171-387 0031), 8pm; **Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6** (0181-741 2255), 7.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

ANITA BAKER: A soul diva in the classic mould, Anita Baker combines textbook precision with a relaxed, natural warmth. She has taken time off to start a family since the glory days of her multi-million-selling albums *Rapture* (1986) and *Giving You The Best That I've Got* (1988), and these are her first British dates since 1990. But as well as recording last year's low-key comeback album *Rhythm of Love*, she has also contributed to Frank Sinatra's *Duets* album and performs *When You Love Someone* with James Ingram on the soundtrack of the Billy Crystal/Debra Winger movie, *Forget Paris*. **NEC, Birmingham** (0121-767 4078), Nov 8; **Wembley Arena, Middlesex** (0181-900 1234), Nov 10; **Manchester Apollo** (0161-832 1111), Nov 11.

FOO FIGHTERS: The band that has risen out of the ashes of Nirvana. Foo Fighters nearly caused a riot when they played a set in the crushingly over-attended Melody Maker tent at the Reading Festival this summer. Led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Grohl (formerly the drummer in Nirvana), the four-piece dishes out a post-grunge cocktail of high voltage rock 'n' roll with sometimes magical results on its self-titled debut album. The opportunity to check out their live show in more civilised conditions is eagerly awaited. **Wolverhampton Civic Hall** (01902 312050), Nov 10; **Barrowlands, Glasgow** (0141-332 1120), Nov 11; **Town and Country, Leeds** (0113 280100), Nov 12; **Brixton Academy, London SW9** (0171-924 9999), Nov 14; **SEK, Dublin** (00353 459559), Nov 17.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

FARINELLI (15): Opera, sex and frocks: this art-house movie has all the most enticing ingredients. Gérard Corbiau's film about the life of the 18th-century castrato singer lays out its attractions for everyone to see, though a wayward script and a lack of visual punch reduces the material's potency. Stefano Dionisi plays the eunuch whose voice charms the courts of Europe and causes ladies to swoon; Enrico Lo Verso is the composer brother who helps him to perform sexual favours. Nobody was castrated for

the soundtrack: Farinelli's voice is an electronic composite of Ewa Mallas Godlewska, a Polish soprano, and Derek Lee Ragin, an American counter-tenor. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891); **Carlson Mayfair** (0171-369 1720); **MGM's Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030).

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Something for everyone in the festival's first weekend. Commosurs may relish Harvey Keitel wandering through the Balkans in Angelopoulos's *Ulysses Gaze* or Tran An Hung's *Cyclo*, an explosive successor to *The Scent of Green Papaya*. Others may fancy a fascinating documentary about gays in Hollywood, *The Celluloid Closet*, or Jim Jarmusch's existential Western *Dead Man*. Those who need family fun can see *The Sound of Music* and the much-praised *A Little Princess*, based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The historically minded, meanwhile, should make a date with Jacques Feyder's entrancing *Visages d'enfants* and the all-singing, all-dancing, all-wonderful *Paramount on Parade*, with three numbers sung by Maurice Chevalier, including *Sweeping the Clouds Away*. **National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1** (0171-928 3232).

RODNEY MILES

LA BELLE HELENE: Offenbach's extra-brut champagne music. John Wells's saucy new translation, a rampaging star performance of the title role from Anne Howells and a determinedly cheeky one from Tracey Welnborn as Paris — the combination makes Scottish Opera's new production irresistible. It is also irresistibly pretty in the Christian Ratz-Agostino Cavalcade decor, and Emmanuel Joël conducts with properly Gallic wit. A perfect shot in the arm as the nights draw in. **Theatre Royal, Hope St, Glasgow** (0141-332 9000), today, 2.15pm; **Theatre Royal, Grey St, Newcastle upon Tyne** (0191-232 2061), Tues 7, Fri 10, 7.15pm.

OWEN WINGRAVE: Britten's "problem" opera, a strange mixture of pacifist fervour and Henry James ghost story, was created for television and has never quite been accepted into the canon. Glyndebourne Touring Opera has now mounted the first major new production for more than 20 years; the



Glyndebourne Touring Opera performs Owen Wingrave

director Robin Phillips makes his British operatic debut, and the fine cast is headed by William Dazeley, Elizabeth Gale, Edith Pritchard, Neil Jenkins and Eiddwen Harrhy. Ivor Bolton conducts. Check it out. **Theatre Royal, Royal Parade, Plymouth** (01752-26722), Fri 10, 7.15pm. **G**

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

COMMUNICATING DOORS: Alan Ayckmore's ingenious time-travel play. Julie McKelvey flies from a vengeful enigma, via the doors of a hotel that takes her forward and back a decade (Gilded, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1) (0171-494 5539) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm. **G**

THE COUNTRY GIRL: Anne Cavallini directs Corn Redgrave and Kira Mantel in Clifford Odets's celebrated backstage drama of love, drink, and mental obsession (Greenwich, Croydon Hill, SE10) (0181-858 7758) Previews today, 2.30 and 7.45pm, opens Mon, 7pm. **G**

DEAD FUNNY: Brenda Long, Kevin McKelvey and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's playful funny play about comedy and some of their fans (Sewey, The Strand, WC2) (0171-438 8889) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Wed and Sat, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. **G**

EDDIE OZZARD: The quality comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on the (Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2) (0171-379 5399) Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm. **G**

FUNNY MONEY: Roy Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of banknotes in his latest target, Charlie Drake (Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2) (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. **G**

HOBBERS' CHOICE: Leo McKern in the tale role of Harold Shipman's warm-hearted cousin, Nicola McCullough and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law (Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1) (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm. **G**

THE HOTHOUSE: Assembled by critics in a mysterious desertion centre, Harold Pinter is memorably funny, heading the strong cast in his own, long-buried play (Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1) (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm. **G**

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INSIDE STORY

3

'There's a lesson for India in Neasden'

Continued on page 3, col 1
their growing, inquisitive sons — decided to discontinue their children ahead to the care of grandparents in Bombay. This was how my brother, four years old, and I, six, stepped, bewildered and alone, off a plane from New York and into my grandfather's pistachio-green Fiat. We were then driven from Bombay, on the western coast of India, to the Venkateshwara Temple in Tirupati, 850km to the southeast.

My grandfather (a heavy Indian Army man, with whom I was to drink much rum and gin in later years) and my grandmother (not quite heavy but very indulgent) had decided that their granddaughters needed to be ritually sheared. The temple at Tirupati, India's richest and most crowded (it receives more visitors each day than Mecca or the Vatican), is where Hindu devotees have always gone to shave their heads and to make an offering of their shorn hair to the local deity, Venkateshwara.

This is thought to be "cleansing", but for a little boy it is frightening. I will not forget the man at the temple advancing on me with a razor, or the helpless terror in my small brother's brown eyes, but we somehow jostled into a large hall with all our hair and jostled out again with none. Thousands of others did this, too; our boyish locks were swept away to join some vast mound of offerings made by newly tonsured Hindus.

The temples of the Hindu religion, unlike mosques and Christian churches — are bustling places, often squeaky underfoot and sometimes manned by pious priests who pay devotees little regard. For someone whose prayer at home was pacific and introspective, visits to these sites of gaudy worship soon took on the nature of nightmare.

At the temple in Vishwanath, gudi (lane) in Banaras, I was elbowed by old women desperate for a splash on their palms of holy water from the river Ganges, dispensed by a priest who had his mind on other things. But drops of wine shall bring relief," wrote the poet Hariwansh Rai Bachchan, in his iconic *Madhusala*.

At the Tulsi Manas temple, in the same city, a monkey snatched a banana from my hand; when I moved to ring a pebble at it, I was cursed at by a man in saffron for whom the monkey was related to the god Hanuman. (Monier Williams, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at



Hindus tear down the 16th-century Babri mosque, birthplace of the Hindu god Ram. Below, the temples at Madurai



Oxford in the 19th century, said of Indian monkeys in his *Religious Thought and Life in India*: "... they are quite as ungodlike in their habits in the regions where they are worshipped as the most mischievous monkeys in any other part of the world.")

There was worse. At the beehive-shaped Kamakhya temple in Assam, in eastern India, I stepped with bare feet into the fresh blood of pigeons, sacrificed in their scores to the goddess Kali by the priests. And in villages throughout Rajasthan — a province as parched as it is feudal — I came across temple after temple where a lowness of caste or

birth barred villagers from entering the inner sanctum. As I grew older, and better able to absorb the complexity of Hindu temples, those elemental fears and revulsions gradually receded. They were replaced by other fears, to which I will return. But I began to see beyond the mill of people, and the pungent smells of prayer, beyond the coarse crush of devotees and the apparent waste — in offerings to the deity — of milk and food and ghee.

I did not find devotion, but I learned to live with the force of spirit which other Hindus carried within them. That spirit is present most clearly in the architecture of every temple, in the sculptured form of the ritual flame, in stone idols grave and gorgeous, women and men at prayer, and the Vedic chant of brachycephalic Brahmins.

And I discerned that in the apparent anarchy of the religion into which I was born, there is also tolerance and an even temper. I found that spirit, most of all, in the Dravidian temples of my ancestral Tamil land — in Madurai, in Tanjore (where my father was born), and in the temple at Mahabalipuram by the sea.

I found that spirit in Neasden, too. The new Swaminarayan Temple, already a landmark in London, is the product of a "mighty creative process," as I echo these lines by Octavio Paz from his poem *Vrindaban* (which, curiously, is the birthplace of Krishna, another god of the Hindu pantheon):

I know what I know and I write it / The embodiment of time / The act / The movement in which the whole being is sculptured and destroyed / Consciousness and hands to



Shaved heads in India: Tunku Varadarajan (right) in 1968, with his younger brother

Medieval temple for a modern age

THE Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, northwest London, shares none of the characteristics of the buildings which encircle it. It is, instead, faithful to the tenets of medieval Hindu temple architecture. This style, initiated during Indian history's Gupta period (between the fourth and sixth centuries AD), achieved its finest expression in the north of the country from the ninth to the 11th centuries.

Diverging from the southern Dravidian idiom of temple architecture, the north Indian style was distinguished by its use of the shikhar, or pinnacle. This can be curvilinear or rectangular in shape. The



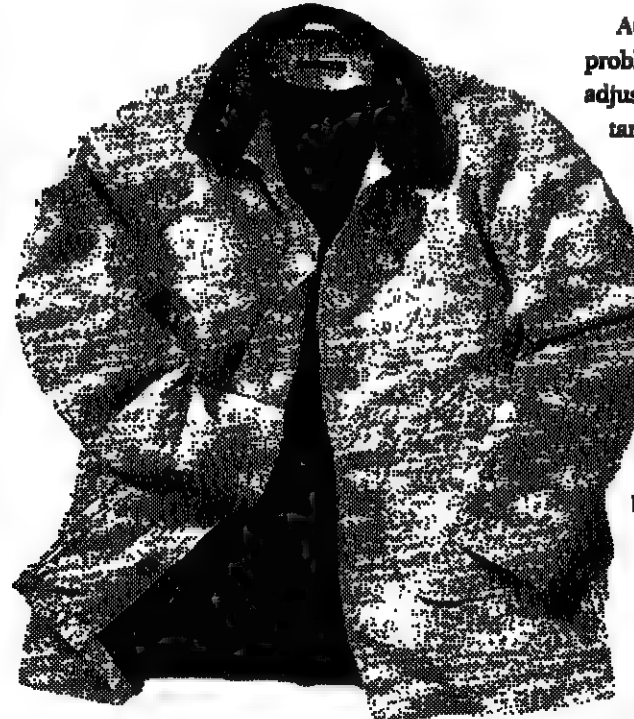
The Neasden temple: no steel or iron was used

Neasden temple has the latter variety, its central pinnacle (surrounded by a row of smaller spires) topped with the kalash, a pot-shaped finial. Beneath the finial is a cap stone in the shape of a grooved disc, the amalasaraka.

NEASDEN's temple took 27 months to build, and used 2,828 tonnes of Bulgarian limestone, 2,000 tonnes of Indian and Italian marble, and 127 tonnes of granite. No steel or iron was used: the slabs and pieces of stone were slotted together in the manner of a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle.

T.V.

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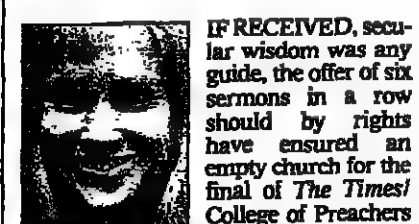
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Ruth Gledhill attends the final of *The Times* Preacher of the Year award

Purity from the pulpit



IF RECEIVED, secular wisdom was any guide, the offer of six sermons in a row should by rights have ensured an empty church for the final of *The Times* College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award. But even though it was partly obscured by scaffolding, this spacious, revivalist St Pancras Church was packed full for the two-hour service to choose the best of six.

More than 500 preachers, both ordained and lay, and from all the leading denominations, entered the competition. A shortlist was drawn up after a carefully scrutinised judging process and all 30 were visited in their churches before the final six were chosen.

Judges included John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster and well-known atheist, who was chosen because organisers believed preachers should be able to preach to the unconverted as well as the converted. The preachers had each been given a beatitude from the Sermon on the Mount, that day's gospel text, to talk on.

After a welcome by the parish priest, the Rev Brendan Clover, an introduction by Canon Roger Royle, of Southwark Cathedral, and a hymn, we were off. The first preacher, Gill Dascombe, a lay preacher and pharmacist from Macclesfield, ascended the exceptionally high pulpit with remarkable calm.

"How blest are those who know their need of God: the kingdom of heaven is theirs," was her text. She described her devastation on learning she had skin cancer. "The most destructive entity we can face is not death, it is fear," she said. Canon Jeremy Davies, precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, was next: "How blest are the sorrowful; they shall find consolation." He told a story of Vera,

whose husband was dying of cancer. "Where there's life, there's hope," the vicar had told her, but she thought it would be truer to say, for a Christian, "Where there's death, there's hope."

It was already clear how difficult this contest would be to judge, and it became more difficult after the sermon by our next preacher, Dr Alison Fry, a former scientist who is in her third year of ministerial training at St John's College, Durham. She spoke on "How blest are those of a gentle spirit: they shall have the earth for their possession." Read literally, these words are not true, she said. "They get walked over. They go to the wall." But read another way, the picture is of heaven and earth mingling together, "of extraordinary made ordinary, of ordinary made saints".

THE Rev Dr Richard Major, curate at Truro Cathedral, followed Dr Fry into the pulpit. He preached on the blessedness of those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail. Next came Dr Edmund Marshall, a lecturer in management science and both an Anglican lay reader and a Methodist local preacher, preaching on how blessed are the merciful.

At this point, the service had long overrun and the organisers cancelled the last hymn. As the last preacher, the Rev Barry Overend, vicar of St Chad's Headingley, Leeds, climbed the well-worn pulpit steps, I did not think he had a chance. Speaking fast, he surprised us all with a stunning sermon that proved to be the winner and sent the congregation out laughing. His beatitude, "How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God", demanded a "Mr Spock approach," he said. He could imagine the *Star Trek* hero pondering the text and concluding: "It's purify Jim, but not as we know it."

He described a certain "Mrs Wentworth" — unselfish, not hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and possessing that "almost indefinable something extra". He said: "Purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't." The pure in heart don't shine, they reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see. The ultimate irony, though, was that his Mrs Wentworth, the epitome of purity, does not believe in God. Asked why, her response was simple: "Because I've never seen him."

Any fears on my part that the day had been too long or too dull were dispelled by the shining faces and smiles of the congregation as they left the chilly church for the chillier November air.

The final of the Preacher of the Year Award was held at St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London N1A 2BA (0171-837 2146).

Old MacDonald's showbiz farm

Somewhere along the line I have missed a trick, and it may have cost me a fortune. It is only now that I realise that I have had within my grasp all the ingredients needed to create a number-one tourist attraction; and I have blown it.

I never quite saw what crowd-pulling power farming has. I don't mean modern farming; that is unspeakably dreary. But the sort of farming that I have been doing, with a jolly mixture of pigs, sheep, cows and carthorses. I thought I was doing it for my personal satisfaction and in the cause of agricultural research; but it has, apparently, got what it takes to have Joe Public queuing down the lane with his liver.

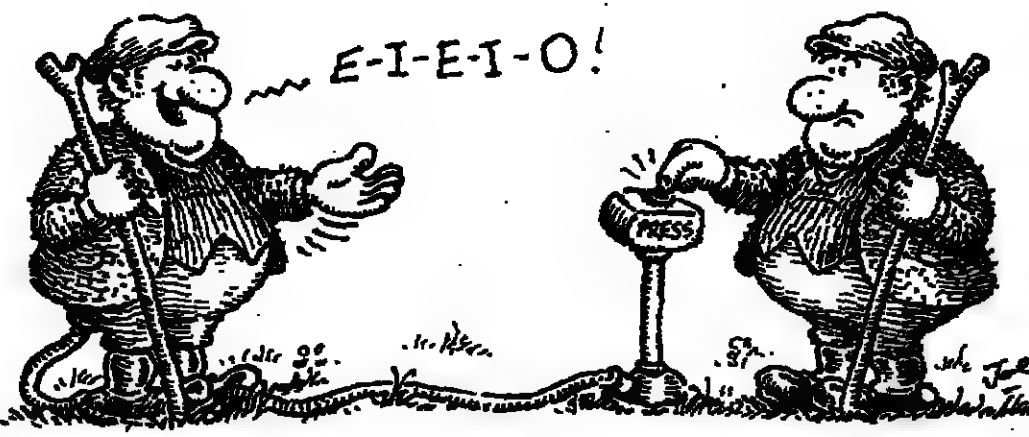
What brought this home to me was when family duties demanded a visit to Alton Towers. It is, according to recent figures, Britain's biggest tourist attraction. The Tower of London and Buckingham Palace would kill for the numbers who flock through the turnstiles. Even before the gates are open, they are gathering round the ticket booths looking at the map of attractions, trembling in anticipation of the rides. This is

what Alton Towers is all about. It has roller-coasters that eclipse all others, wicked machines into which you are strapped and hurtled through the air. They want you to scream, and they are not going to let you go until they have made you.

The most famous ride is called Nemesis. It looks like hell. Children emerge from a stomach-churning, body-inverting ride, gasping: "Wow! We were weightless for four whole seconds!" Some of them are very green.

You might have guessed that it was not for me. If I want to be thrown around this way and that, spun in the air and then dropped to earth, I can get the thrill for free by trying to train our young heifer to the halter. So, instead of Nemesis, I followed my instincts and found a jolly rustic sign directing me to Old MacDonald's Farm.

I walked through the gate, and looked around. Blinkered and looked again. Was I back home?



Sure enough, there was the rusty chaff-cutter —

Albion brand — just like ours. There was an equally rusty oilcake-breaker too; a relic from the days when linseed could be bought in stabs like trays of toffee and had to be broken into bite-size chunks.

Then came the real shock. I had to pinch myself to make sure that I

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENNEY

had not died on the Nemesis machine and entered the afterlife. There, lying in a pool of golden straw, was a Large Black pig. Being unable to control the reflex after several years of pig-owning, I could not prevent myself from shouting: "Pig... pig... pig..."

"Pig..." She lifted her head as if she were real. I thought that whichever model-making genius had built this must have had access to the Creator's original plans. She was perfect in every detail. "Pig... pig... pig..." I muttered. The model gave the precise response to the audio signal that some internal microphone somewhere must be

detecting, and pricked up her ears. This must be computer software of the highest order. Then, bringing me to my senses, the sow stood four square on her legs, as they do when they are about to have a piddle, and let forth a stream which no computer could have simulated.

It was a real pig. Here, amid this land of make-believe, which offers you a rush of Staffordshire water and tells you it is a part of the Congo River, they had dared to confuse me by introducing a live farm animal.

I told her that my sow, Alice, sent her love to her distant relative in showbiz, and went to look at the rest of the animals gathered in individual pens in the next-door barn. They were even more fantastic. Do you know they have got a pair of geese that can sing? True. They were the first thing I saw, opening their yellow beaks as wide as they could and giving a spirited rendering of "E-I-E-I-O".

Next door to them was a black

and white cow. It was not restricted to the usual mooing; they had taught her not only to sing the verses, but to join in the choruses too. Suspicious by now, I turned to see a huge pink pig with a broad grin get as far as "... and on that farm he had some ..." when the little girl in front let go of the button and the pig stopped.

She then gave the button in front of the hens a jab, and they burst into life. Soon the singing of the automata was loud enough to lift the barn roof. Most disturbing was an isolated pair of legs in wellies standing on wooden steps which went up into a loft, just like ours. There was no body, just legs, tapping to the rhythm. Those legs were wearing the same boots as I do! I pinched myself again.

It was all too disturbing. I emerged from Old MacDonald's Farm more shook up than if I had been on the most violent of Alton Towers' rides. Cressfallen too: for six years I have sat unknowingly on an oil well. Still, perhaps it is not too late to start. Alice has learnt as far as the second verse, and as soon as I can train her to stop singing when I let go of the button, we shall be open for business.

For polite, liberal-minded Lewes, Bonfire Night means a riotous celebration of political incorrectness

Where popes and martyrs go for the burn

They are burning the Pope in our town tonight. There will be flaming torches and tar barrels, heads on poles and "No Popery" banners. This is Lewes, East Sussex, where 17 protestants were martyred and today Guy Fawkes plays second fiddle while His Holiness burns.

There is no other bonfire night like it. Every bedroom in the town is booked months ahead. And they don't come just for the spectacle. They come for the sort of thrill we have almost ruled out of our lives. "I can't believe they're doing this," someone says every year, as we watch a night of misrule from our house on the high street. The bow windows jut out into the crowds, and through the glass you can feel the heat of the torches.

On this night every year, the population of Lewes swells from 15,000 to 60,000. The doorbell rang so many times on our first November 5 here that we turned the evening into an annual party, with scores of sausages and pints of mulled wine.

We watch about 2,500 marchers dressed as Zulus, Vikings and Red Indians — definitely not Native Americans — and listen to military and jazz bands. Then we pile out into the smoky night to see burning effigies and exploding tableaux of the year's famous people at the five bonfires around town. They have been practising for weeks. We have had sporadic explosions most nights. The striped guernseys of the Bonfire Boys — worn since 1847 when a boy in a guernsey was arrested — have been seen about the town. And behind the Elephant and Castle pub there has been much hammering and whistling at the weekends.

At dusk tonight there will be an eerie start to proceedings with the illumination of the Martyrs Memorial on the hill at the far end of the town. The martyrs were burnt at the stake outside the Star Inn between 1555 and 1557 during Mary's reign.

"And Lewes Bonfire has been going ever since Bloody Mary?" Someone says that every year, too. The answer is no. Other towns have martyrs. The memorial wasn't put up until 1901. Like so

many "centuries-old English traditions", Lewes Bonfire really got going in Victorian times.

There was the odd year notable for a rowdy November 5 in Lewes in the 18th century. Bonfire came and went. Then, in 1850, the Pope re-opened for business in England, setting up a Roman Catholic hierarchy and creating an Archbishop of Westminster. Then the Bonfire Boys really got going.

The infamous and dangerous Lewes rouser (a huge homemade squib) has been banned, and it's "No offence meant, Father." After all, only one of the five societies which run Bonfire actually burns

residue of it in Bonfire but I think it's overwhelmingly just a tradition.

In Lewes the gunpowder plots start on November 6 — for the following year. The secret societies are Commercial Square, Cliffe, South Street Juvenile, Waterloo — all named after parts of the town — and Borough, originally called Lewes Town. They'll have my head on a pole for that, but membership tends to run in families and an outsider has as much chance of finding out what the tableau is in advance as lighting a wet Roman candle.

The Pope-burners are Cliffe. A few years back, they burnt Robert Runcie as well because he showed signs of ecumenism. The effigy of the Archbishop of Canterbury carried a book called *The Road to Rome*.

Favourites for the tableaux this year include John Redwood, with rockets zooming out of his Vulcan ears. The Bonfire Boys must surely have been tempted by Hugh Grant in *Sunset Boulevard*. Sadly, Liz Hurley's will-she-won't-she flirtation with Rome came too late.

"How do they get permission for all this?" The thoughtful sausage-chewer, watching babies being pushed by marching mothers and youngsters carrying torches, always expects a vexed man from the council to come along any minute and send 60,000 people home. Imagine proposing it today. "We'd like to drop flaming tar barrels in the River Ouse ... incite a bit of anti-Catholic feeling ... blow up a replica of somebody famous ... We'll prepare for the whole thing by tinkering with explosives in our cellars and sheds. All right with the committee?"

"Heavens." A pause mid-savage. "Are they carrying severed heads on poles?" With blood running out of mouth and neck, yes. Council and police officers find themselves pilloried, or rather beheaded, on the night. The slogan "Enemies of Bonfire" is fixed to the pole.

Every society has its archbishop, who gives a speech — which is more of a rant — condemning Guy



The Cliffe society, known as pope-burners

the Pope. And, after all, it's not this Pope. It's Pope Paul V, who was at the Vatican at the time of the Gunpowder Plot.

A flaming "No Popery" goes past our dining-room window followed by "Our Cause is Good and Must Prevail". The other 364 days of the year, the middle-class liberals of Lewes would shudder at such intolerance. But tonight they'll be on the streets and behind the bow windows of the high street.

The local Roman Catholic priest, Father Andrew Beer of St Pancras, will not be out on the street cheering tonight. He takes a philosophical view of the immolation of his spiritual leader. "I'd rather they didn't burn the Pope and say blood-curdling prayers, but Lewes is a friendly town with no feeling of anti-Catholicism. There may be a

It has not been a happy year for hedgehogs. Last winter the mild weather kept rousing them from hibernation and depleting their energy reserves. This summer the hot drought drove earthworms, their main fodder, inaccessibly underground, forcing hedgehogs into unnatural acts, such as raiding hen-houses and giving birth to blood babies, or hoglets, as they are known.

Now, to cap it all, these creatures, vulnerable despite their spines, are up against Guy Fawkes Night. Unknown numbers of hedgehogs die each year after choosing unlit bonfires as winter homes. The solution, however, is not to poke them out with a stick, but to start a fire next to the pile and gradually move it over.

What do you do if you find a hibernating hedgehog, furze-pig, or urchin, to use its country names?

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), founded in 1982, recommends preparing another hibernation site just in case, positioning the leaves and



The Lewes "Bonfire Boys and Girls" in their striped guernseys push Guy Fawkes to the stake

Fawkes and anyone else who takes his fancy, on a platform in front of the bonfire.

One veteran archbishop of Commercial Square claims always to have been drunk, and worried only if fireworks landed in his mire. Now he is retired he still starts drinking every year in September, the beginning, as he explains, of the bonfire season.

Unbelievably, the safety record is good. They wouldn't get away with

a night like this if it weren't. Some precautions are taken. The pubs are closed, the shops windows boarded up — not for fear of vandalism, but the pressure of the crowds — and there are safety barriers around the war memorial.

It is the risk — the mad and bad part — which attracts the 60,000. You can feel the tension in the town all day. The undertow is, there all year with the meetings, the annual dinners and the tableaux plots.

And tonight it will crash through the surface current of the bland, safety-first, politically correct late-20th century.

Tomorrow morning, there'll be nothing left but the smell of the flames.

JILL PARKIN

● Lewes town centre will be closed to all cars from late in the afternoon. Ring British Rail for details of extra trains.

Sitting pretty on a raft

Feather Report

THE FIRST thing I saw when I got to the lake was a female reed-bunting feeding vigorously on the purple seed-heads of the phragmites reeds. She was swaying with the tops of the reeds, and was so absorbed that she let me have a good view of the beautiful, finely inked striations on her back, and of her rather unfeminine moustache.

Out beyond the reeds, coots were making pinging cries, and tufted ducks were diving, while a pair of mute swans were quietly preening. When they had finished, each gave a brisk, self-satisfied wag of its pointed white tail.

But the most dramatic birds on the lake were a party of eight cormorants. Seven of them were sitting on a raft, their beaks pointing up in that suspicious way they have, and two of them had spread their wings out to dry.

One had its wings in a W-shape, and was gently flapping the tips of them. The other had them stretched out straight, like the hem of a large black curtain. The eighth bird was swimming very low in the water, and suddenly dived. They chase eels underwater, using their feet as propellers — but this one came up with nothing.

Anglers and fish farmers hate cormorants as much as many countryfolk hate magpies. They can get a licence to shoot them if serious damage to fish stocks is proved. But the RSPB points out that there are only about 7,500 pairs of them in Britain — so I am glad to learn that licences are quite hard to get.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birders — Watch out for goldeneyes on lakes, reservoirs and inland waterways. Twitchers — Arctic redpoll at Dorman's Pool, Cleveland; juvenile purple heron near Preetz, Shropshire; dusky warbler at Sandwick Bay, Kent. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

MARY EVANS



Fish farmers hate cormorants for damaging their fish stocks

How to save a hedgehog on Guy Fawkes Night

Hedgehogs are known to choose unlit bonfires as their winter homes

since hedgehogs eat slugs, they are much more eco-friendly in the garden than pesticides. If you have a pond, lean a ramp into it, so that hedgehogs can climb out if they fall in after drinking. It was the BHPS that persuaded county councils to include escape ramps in their cattle grids. It also lobbied to have the hedgehog protected by law when the RSPCA — which brings the majority of cruelty cases to court — found its prosecutions were hampered by a wildlife protection law. The RSPCA claims it is ambiguous and not comprehensive enough to include hedgehogs.

Dr Pat Morris of London University's zoology department is acknowledged as the country's leading hog expert. He is the

author of the definitive layman's manual, *Hedgehogs* (Whitman Books, £7.99), and is researching their ethology. One of the seasonal problems outlined in his book is that of autumn orphans. Late litters can be born right into October, which means that if you find a hog family in your woodpile it may contain hungry hoglets left to forage while their parents go into hibernation.

The Greek writer, Archilochus, said: "The fox knows many things — the hedgehog one big one." Perhaps it is the number of the BHPS Hedgehog Helpline 01584 890287.

JENNY MCCLEAN

● The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3JQ (01584 890287). Oak hedgehog houses are available from Banana Barn, Street Farm, Stinchcombe, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 6AW (call 01453 544276 for catalogue). St Tiggywinkle's, The Wildlife Hospital Trust, Aston Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 9AF (01844 202202).



Hedgehogs like untidy gardens, with leaves to shelter in

GARDENING

5

George Plumptre on the strawberry tree, whose fruit and flowers will brighten a wintry landscape

Sweet looking, but sour tasting

The average small garden has room for only a limited number of ornamental trees — in many cases only one. These need to be chosen with care, and people tend to go for a well-known type — probably a cherry, a magnolia, or an acer, all at their best in spring or early summer. In my garden, however, the unquestioned star of trees is at its best now and will remain striking throughout the winter, thanks to its evergreen foliage.

It is an old plant of *Arbutus unedo*, one of the "strawberry trees". They are all evergreen, dome-shaped small trees or large shrubs, and their combination of strawberry-like fruits, and small pitcher-shaped flowers, add to an invariably handsome habit. Nearly half of those listed in the current Royal Horticultural Society *Plant Finder* have gained the RHS Award of Garden Merit, a record few plant families can rival. In autumn and early winter, *Arbutus unedo* produces clusters of fruit that ripen from green to red and, at the same time, panicles of small, white flowers.

The Latin name, *unedo*, is an example of the humour of Carl Linnaeus, the 18th-century Swedish botanist. Translated literally, it means "I eat one", because the fruit's similarity to a small strawberry tempts you to do just this — and then discover how un-

pleasant it tastes. Nonetheless, the fruits are not poisonous, and in Spain they are distilled into a liqueur.

Arbutus unedo's full name is the "Killarney strawberry tree" because it grows wild in southwest Ireland, as well as in many areas around the Mediterranean. Unusually for an evergreen plant, it does not need acid soil to thrive, and in Killarney it grows on pure limestone.

When choosing a site, the most important considerations are well-drained soil and a sunny, preferably sheltered, position. Young plants can be susceptible to extreme cold and will benefit from some protection (for instance with Netlon) for their first winter or two.

Once established, however, they should be hardy in most gardens. They have proved extremely resistant to strong winds in exposed, coastal positions.

There are two named varieties of *Arbutus unedo* which are especially worth looking for. One is *rubra*, whose flowers are a handsome red colour. It is advisable, however, to see this plant in flower before buying it, as in many instances the flower colour is rather pale.

The other is "Elfin king", perhaps the best candidate for a garden with limited space. It normally grows to between 6ft and 8ft and, as well as having a conspicuously dense habit and superbly dark green

The strawberry-like — but bitter tasting — fruit of the *Arbutus unedo*, which means "I eat one"

leaves, it will produce quantities of both fruit and flower as a young plant, often within the first year of planting.

Arbutus unedo is the most widely grown member of the family, and it is available at a large number of nurseries which offer a decent range of trees and shrubs.

But perhaps more handsome is the rarer hybrid, *Arbutus x andrachnoides*, which originated in Greece and is notable for its wonderful cinnamon-coloured bark. *Arbutus unedo* is one of its parents; the other is *Arbutus andrachne*, which provides the distinctive bark.

Again, it is a plant to investigate before buying to ensure that you take home a specimen with the desired bark colour and texture. Architectural Plants in West

Sussex is one of the best suppliers, a nursery whose owner, Angus White, rates the strawberry tree as one of his favourites.

This is the time of year to admire strawberry trees before ordering one. They can be planted now, but waiting until March ensures that you do not risk exposing them to a fierce winter straight after planting.

Some venerable specimens that have achieved heights of well over 20ft in famous gardens such as Kew and Bodnant in North Wales confirm that they have long been prized evergreens, while the National Trust's garden at Dunster Castle in Somerset has a young crop which comprises the NCCPG national collection.

I know of one enthusiast who has grown strawberry trees for more than 30 years, having been captivated as a boy by the fruits and flowers of a large old tree in the grounds of his school.

My tree grows in front of our house, and at this time of year passers-by regularly stop to ask me its identity. Very few have heard the name when I tell them, but they go away encouraged to buy one and to improve their own gardens with one of our most satisfying ornamental evergreens.

S.A.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Begonia sutherlandii in pots should be allowed to die down naturally under glass. Save the bulbils from the stem joints to produce extra plants next year.
- Remove leaves from lawns, and stack where they can rot down. To speed the progress to leaf mould, use Biotol Compost Maker. Alternatively, spread the leaves under shrubberies, where they cannot blow around in the wind.
- If eel worm is a problem, lift tubers of Jerusalem artichokes and store in a dry, dark place.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q We have a large clump of bamboo which must be decades old. It is in chalky soil and produces spindly canes. This year its foliage turned brown before the heatwave and, although it appears to be alive, it looks rather sad. Does it need pruning or thinning, and if so, how? — John W. Dixon, Andover, Hants.

A Bet you a fiver that this is that excellent bamboo, *Fargesia murielae*, which has been flowering this year. Bamboos have the odd habit of deciding that this is the year to flower, no matter whose garden they are in. Flowering is an exhausting process for bamboos. The strongest survive, as well as those clumps that were too young and un-established to flower. A flowered clump needs to have the flowered canes — which will be the majority — cut out at ground level. You can see the little bunches of brown flowers hanging at the upper leaf joints. Give it an almighty feed and much in the spring, and make sure it does not lack water, then keep your fingers crossed.

Q I planted a Japanese honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, against a wall in my small back garden in 1973, and for ten years it flourished. Then it started having more and more yellow leaves throughout the summer. I have fed it and watered heavily, but to no avail. It produces plenty of new growth and still looks vital.

What do you recommend? — Mr H. Hotton, Oxford.

A Honeysuckles are prone to aphids and mildew, the latter especially in hot years. Aphid attack often causes the older leaves to fall prematurely. Mildew, if not too severe, attacks older leaves while the young remain healthy. Spray now and early next year for mildew, and clear up dead leaves this winter. In a small, enclosed garden lack of ventilation may be encouraging mildew, especially on an old plant. Would you be prepared to cut it down, removing all that old dead wood, and regrow it?

CONCERNING my advice on burning off pampas grass in February before digging it out, Ms Valerie Collins points out that hedgehogs often hibernate in the dead leaves at the base of this plant. She is right. If you have to disturb such a site, check for hedgehogs first and find or make them an alternative home. More information is available from St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 8AF (01844 292292).

Save a hedgehog, page 4
Q Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

HOMES AND GARDENS

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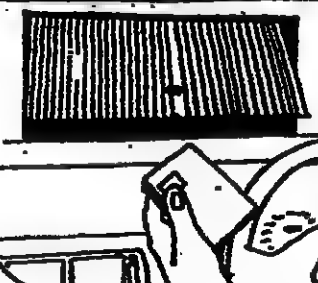
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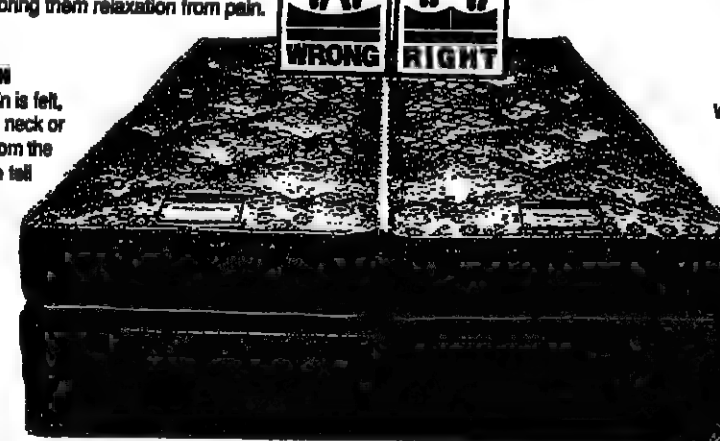
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SHOPAROUND ALSO APPEARS ON PAGES 6 & 12

NEW ON CD: Queen live again;
60ft Dolls look cloned; Harlem's
golden age; Schumann blazes;
Rigoletto from La Scala

POP ALBUM
David Sinclair

Made In Heaven stands up remarkably well as the closing chapter in a spectacular pop odyssey.

POP SINGLE
David Sinclair

60FT DOLLS
Pig Valentine
Indolent DOLLS001★★

A GUITAR-SLINGING trio convened two years ago in Newport, Gwent. 60ft Dolls take the sound of the early Jam and Clash as their template for *Pig Valentine*. Tom-toms are whipped, riffs are clipped and singer Richard Parfitt affects a desperado air: "The devil on my shoulder buys me drinks, so I don't care/The angel slipped, he lost his grip, I am headed straight for you-know-where."

It's a sound and mood which fits in alongside this year's rash of exciting new bands. But like so many of their peers (Marion, Lick, Menswear, the Bluetones, Ash), 60ft Dolls have still to prove themselves much more than the sum of some fairly obvious influences.

JAZZ
Clive Davis

VARIOUS ARTISTS
A Great Day in Harlem
Columbia 481399-2★★★

IF JEAN BACH'S affectionate Oscar-nominated jazz documentary, *A Great Day in Harlem*, had one drawback it was that its slender running time reduced most of the music to little more than soundbites. That deficiency is amply rectified in this no less genial exercise in time-travel.

The day in question, for those who have not yet seen the film, was the morning in 1958 when a young *Esquire* photographer, Art Kane, corralled nearly 60 leading musicians of the era for a group portrait on the steps of a Harlem brownstone.

The wide-angle shot that resulted, after some jockeying for position, stands as an evocative document of an occasion when swing masters from Buck Clayton to Lester Young rubbed shoulders with the new generation represented by Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan and Charles Mingus.

Musically, the compilation proves much more than an excuse to round up the usual suspects. Mingus's elegiac *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat* may be familiar enough, but the remainder throw up unexpected treasures — Rex Stewart and other Ellingtonians performing *Back Room Romp*, Horace Silver creating a leisurely,



Mercury: zest and power

carnal loss of range or power in his voice on the exuberant *I Was Born To Love You* or the soaring, pseudo-gospel chant of *Let Me Live*.

Nor are there any obviously half-baked, or patched-up numbers. Two of the songs have been recorded before, including *Heaven For Everyone*, which cropped up on an album by drummer Roger Taylor's band, The Cross, and the ghastly *Too Much Love Will Kill You*, a solo hit for guitarist Brian May in 1992. Most, however, are as good as anything that Queen came up with in their later years. How good that is, as always with Queen, is largely a matter of taste.

Mother Love, the last recording that Mercury made, is a song of truly heartfelt pathos: "I can't take it if you see me cry/I long for peace before I die."

Despite its overdue delivery,

NEW ON VIDEO: Nymphomaniac nuns, animal magic, gleaming uniforms ... and, of course, Julie Andrews

Like father, like daughter



Sophie Marceau plays D'Artagnan's daughter in Bertrand Tavernier's high-spirited costume romp, crammed with implausible plot turns and vigorous swordplay

D'ARTAGNAN'S DAUGHTER

Artificial Eye, PG, 1994

BERTRAND TAVERNIER tries his hand at a costume romp crammed with implausible plot turns, vigorous swordplay and a heroine in trousers. Sophie Marceau portrays the musketeer's daughter with charm and spunk, though her spotlight dims once Philippe Noiret appears as the ageing dad who rounds up Dumas's old team to rout a conspiracy threatening the throne. Like the musketeers, the film sags in the middle, but its pleasant high spirits carry the day.

AMATEUR

Artificial Eye, 15, 1994

HAL HARTLEY'S uniquely cockeyed romantic thriller about a

nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Marti Donavon), and some incriminating floppy disks. The cult writer-director persists with his cryptic visual style and circular dialogue, but the plot gives the film more momentum than usual and by the end you even care for the fate of the main characters: two lost souls, amateurs at living, trapped in a muddle of desires, ambition and self-doubt.

THE FOX AND THE HOUND

Disney, U, 1981

MANY Disney cartoon features, past and present, fritter away their energies in episodic stories, but this has a strong dramatic pull. The plot concerns a fox and hound who play together as pups, only to discover

that nature intended them to be enemies. The colours come from the old Disney paintbox: rural backgrounds are cosily romantic, and cute bundles of fun are everywhere. The film may seem sedate next to *Aladdin* but it works, especially for younger children.

MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS: THE MOVIE

FoxVideo, PG, 1995

MORE a feature-length advert for Power Rangers toys than a movie proper. Time and again the camera fetishises the gleaming uniforms worn by the six teenage stars whenever they "morph" into superheroes and zoom between planets. The evil they battle is spread by Ivan Ooze, a shape-

changing ogre who spouts sarcastic one-liners, the probable result of spending the past 600 years inside a purple egg. A popcorn feast for the younger crowd.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

FoxVideo, U, 1965

BANG in the middle of the swinging 1960s, out popped this marzipan musical, full of simple tunes, seven children, nuns, picturesque Austrian scenery and Julie Andrews's perfect diction. The technical finesse of director Robert Wise keeps the worst excesses of sentiment at bay, but it still helps to have a sweet tooth. For its thirtieth anniversary, the film is being issued in both full-screen and wide-screen formats, with the trailer and a short film about Salzburg thrown in. Real

addicts, however, will want the collectors' box, which adds an 80-minute documentary and a book by screenwriter Ernest Lehman.

THE STRANGER

Second Sight, 1946, PG

FOR his third completed feature, Orson Welles was tethered to fairly conventional material, but still produced a powerful film: a disquieting portrait of Nazi evil lurking inside a New England community. Welles plays an escaped war criminal about to marry unsuspecting Loretta Young; Edward G. Robinson is the federal agent on his trail. Controlled performances overall; plus a marvellous, over-the-top finale in a church tower.

GEOFF BROWN

OPERA

John Higgins

VERDI

Rigoletto
Rost/Alagna/Brunson/La Scala Orchestra/Muti
Sony SKZ 66314 (2 CDs)★★

RICCARDO MUTI's first go at *Rigoletto* on record, for EMI back in 1988, turned out to be one of his least satisfactory sets. The principle was fine — of having two young singers as the Duke and Gilda (La Scala and Dessi) paired with a highly experienced baritone (Zaccanaro) in the title role. But the outcome was drab. Neither tenor nor soprano set the sparks flying in the

opera, which is just as it should be if the right man is there to sing it. Certainly it brings out the best in Alagna, as does the following *cabaletta*, which is closed with a flourish heroic enough to suggest he may be a Manrico before the decade is out.

Andrea Most provides some notable limpid singing in *Caro nome* and sounds young enough to be a credible object of the Duke's attentions. She moves away from the frail little flower that has recently been the Gilda fashion to offer a gutsier girl. This fits in well with Alagna's swashbuckling approach.

Renato Bruson has already recorded the title role under Sinopoli (Philips) in one of the best of the competing sets. The voice sounds dustier than it once was, especially at the top. But there is no doubting the passion he puts into the part, or the supporting sympathy that Muti gives him from the orchestra. Whether *Rigoletto* is roaming the dark back-alleys of Mantua or pouring out his spleen against the court, Muti makes it clear that his heart is with the older generation.

The supporting cast is generally adequate: Dimitri Kavrakos a scowling Sparafucile, Mariana Pentcheva a too anonymous Maddalena. The live recording from La Scala has its drawbacks, with a generally dry sound and some of the singing appearing to take place out in the wings.

The volume needs to be turned up, otherwise the repeats of *La donna è mobile* will be blown away like a feather in the wind, as the Duke's favourite song goes.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

SCHMIDT

Symphony No. 4: Variations on a Hussar's Song
London Philharmonic/
Wesler-Möst
EMI CDC 5 55518 2★★★

THE late-Romantic composer Franz Schmidt (1874-1939) has always been more celebrated in his native Austria than abroad, but over the years international audiences have

become increasingly aware of the strengths and beauties of his music.

Quite a number of his works have now found their way onto disc, and this latest offering from Schmidt's fellow-countryman Franz Wesler-Möst provides us with alternative versions of two of the finest orchestral works: the *Symphony No. 4* and the *Variations on a Hussar's Song*.

Bruckner and Reger are often mentioned as two of the formative influences on Schmidt, though neither is a direct model for the very individual mode of endless development essayed by Schmidt. The first movement, for example, evolves from a theme given out on a solo trumpet (Paul Beniston), while the *Adagio* is also launched with a melody on a solo instrument (in this case, a warm, lyrical cello, played by Robert Truman).

The trumpet scene returns in the final two movements, generating further development of the primary material. But there is also plenty of room for lyrical expression and for revelling in Romantic harmonies. The silky strings and well blended brass of the London Philharmonic do this attractive work full justice and Wesler-Möst conducts with evident affection.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying



Wesler-Möst: affection

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★ Worth hearing
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Richard Cork wrote: "Visitors to Burlington House find themselves embarking on an epic journey and I defy anyone to emerge from it without a profound admiration for the images they have encountered along the way."

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work of the Tutsi, from northern Sudan a 3ft lyre adorned with coins and shells, from Zimbabwe a totemic bird pole, and from South Africa the Linton Slab, a fragment of rock art adorned with sinuous images of armed hunters and the animals they pursue.

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CHAMBER
Hilary Finch

SCHUMANN

Chamber music
Argerich and friends
EMI 5 55484 2★★★

LIVE music-making on record may seem like a contradiction, but it does not come much more alive than this. Inspired by her discoveries at Salvatore Accardo's annual chamber-music weeks in Naples, Martha Argerich decided to make a live, all-Schumann recording with her friends. She

blazed a typically fiery trail of concerts, ending up in Nijmegen, where musicians and repertoire gathered to make this two-disc compilation.

The Piano Quintet is bright with that joy of first discovery. In the high-stepping *Allegro* brillante, Argerich's decisive initiatives at the piano command excited listening and often unpredictable responses from her colleagues, Dora Schwarzberg, Lucy Hall, Nobuko Imai and Mischa Maisky. The slow movement positively quivers.

Cellist Natalia Gutman joins Argerich in a whimsical partnership for the *Fantasiestücke*, while it is Imai's viola which etches in the strange lights and shades of the fairytale pictures of *Marchenbilder*. The comparatively rare *Adagio* and *Allegro* sings out Schumann's joy in the new valve horn: Marie-Luise Neunecker and Alexandre Rabinovitch (piano) create a virtuoso diptych.

Finally Schwarzberg and Argerich join for the Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, turbulent and tentative by turns, and summing up the shades of its original performers, Clara Schumann and Joseph Joachim.

FIBICH

Quintet
DOHNANYI
Sextet

Endymion Ensemble
ASY CD DCA 943★★

THE Fibich Quintet is one of the great underplayed chamber works of all time. The last years of Zdenko Fibich, a young Czech contemporary of Smetana, were warmed by a late-flowering love: the piano "diary" he wrote for his beloved pupil Ančka Schulzová contains many a fond melodic and motivic idea which was to trigger the Quintet.

The Endymion Ensemble lightly turns its rapturous opening melody and enjoys the instrumentation of clarinet, horn, violin, cello and piano. A limpid piano introduces the water-nymph of a slow movement, while the string players bring keen observation to the boisterous polka of a Scherzo. The Fibich is coupled with an irresistible performance of Dohnányi's 1935 Sextet.

palaces and brothels of Mantua.

Muti uses exactly the same formula this time round on Sony and stays with the forces of his home theatre, La Scala. The results are far better. Roberto Alagna as the Duke may not have the polish of Alfredo Kraus (RCA), the supreme exponent of the role in our day, but he has tremendous vocal vigour. At the start, Muti keeps him in a rush, hungry for the next sexual conquest. He zips through *Questa o quella* and dashes into Gilda's lodging for a quick duet. But conductor and tenor are careful to make *Parmi veder* both a reflective piece and the high point of the

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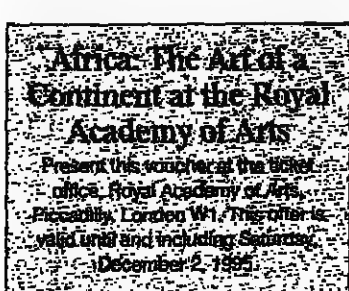
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1955	8
1960	9
1965	10
1970	11
1975	11.5
1980	12

A second home near a Swiss or French alpine resort can help to pay for itself through winter lettings

Ski from your own doorstep

I am sitting at the desk in my study in the Chalet," wrote Alan Clark in his *Diaries*, "and the French windows are open on to the balcony. Fifty feet away the Wiesli foams and tumbles past, swollen by the melting glaciers. The Matterhorn is in full view, and the whole house carries that delicious aroma of high summer, pine needles and sweet geranium."

The former Defence Minister made many fond references to his bolthole at Zermatt, Switzerland, often when he was entrenched in Whitehall meetings.

Owning an Alpine retreat such as Clark's Chalet Caroline is an attractive prospect. The benefits are many: expensive skiing holidays need never be booked again and the chalet can be rented out to earn a yearly return of about 5 per cent of the outlay. The income from three weeks' rental at peak season, say in February, can pay for a year's running costs. Another advantage is that, since last April, the Inland Revenue has allowed taxpayers to offset interest charges to buy or improve foreign holiday homes against their rental income.

Payment of any foreign taxes on rental income is complicated and, though you should be able to pay your tax in Britain, a specialist should be consulted.

As with buying any sort of property, the main issue is location. For chalets, this boils down to France or Switzerland. Naturally, it seems best to choose a property in your favoured resort, but certain factors may prevail against this. Swiss legislation prevents foreigners from buying in German-speaking areas, such as St Moritz and Klosters. Even in French-speaking resorts, such as Zermatt, one can only buy properties with a maximum of 100 square metres of habitable space.

In France, there are fewer restrictions, but the sterling/franc exchange rate makes buying French property less attractive.

Ziggi Davenport, who runs the Hertfordshire-based Alpine Apartments Agency, which specialises in French properties, says that a chalet she sold last year for £1.3 million (£175,000) would go on sale now for around £1.7 million.

French communes are becoming much stricter in enforcing height, size and style restrictions on new chalets. Coupled with the limited amount of land available, this means that existing chalets are getting more expensive. Nevertheless, there is still a huge demand. "I know of many who are waiting to pounce when the French franc weakens," Ms Davenport says.

Chalet prices can vary enormously. In an unfashionable and poorly equipped French-speaking Swiss resort, a two to three-bedroom freehold chalet can be bought for as little as £125,000 to £150,000. But such resorts are well off the beaten piste, and if you are serious enough about skiing to buy a chalet there seems little point in committing yourself to an area where none of your friends would wish to join you. There is the added disadvantage that a chalet in such a resort is hardly going to earn a fat rental income.

The price of chalets in popular Swiss resorts, such as Villars, are typical. SwFr1.5 million (£750,000) will buy the grand, ten-year-old Chalet Barbizou, which has four bedrooms, a cellar, games room, three reception rooms and two bathrooms. The chalet is near enough to the town to be able to walk to the shops and restaurants, and is high enough to enjoy spectacular views. The five-year-old Chalet Les Papillons, which is being sold by its English owner for



The four-bedroom Chalet Barbizou, on a hillside near Villars, Switzerland, is for sale at £750,000

SwFr625,000 (£312,500) is near Villars and has three bedrooms, good views, and the facility of being able to ski from the front door to the nearest telecabine. Both chalets are being sold by Simon Malster, an independent property consultant.

Chalets in French resorts within an hour of Geneva are the most popular, Ms Davenport says, but adds: "Many people are disappointed by the lack of choice around the £250,000 mark." In Val d'Isère, there are two new, deluxe five-bedroom chalets for sale at Fr5,650,000 (£700,000) and Fr6 million (£750,000), though these are so plush that they include saunas and ski-boot warmers. A four-bedroom, four-bathroom chalet (a renovated 300-year-old farmhouse) has just been sold for Fr2.25

million (£300,000). In Méribel, a 600 square metre, 12-year-old chalet with nine bedrooms is for sale at Fr17 million (£2.1 million), but a more typical price for four bedrooms is Fr4 million (£500,000).

Those who spend a large amount of money on chalets are not those who wish to rent them out. Nevertheless, many ski companies are hungry to find decent properties, and are willing to pay good sums for a full season's rental. A £310,000 four-bedroom chalet in Val d'Isère is being rented by a tour company for £23,000 from mid-December to mid-April. This represents a return of 7.5 per cent.

If the idea of giving up your chalet for an entire season does not appeal, there is the option of renting it out to individuals for shorter periods, though management companies can charge as

much as 25 per cent of the rental income. While the owners are away, the chalets can also be maintained by management companies, who will cut the grass in summer, shovel snow from paths, mend gutters, and generally attend to the place. Some companies will deliver your car to the airport on your arrival.

"If the owners are staying only for the weekend," Mr Malster says, "they want to have as much free time as possible. They don't want to waste it by carrying out menial chores." Perhaps Alan Clark has such a splendid arrangement.

GUY WALTERS

© Ziggi Davenport, Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234. Simon Malster, 0171-899 0321.

Skiing in Norway, page 21

FOR SALE

ALPINE CHALET



FRANCE
Chalet G, Domaine des Barmes, Chamonix, Haute-Savoie. Large, newly built, architect-designed chalet in the Chamonix Valley, near the Grands Montets ski area, about 90 minutes' drive from Geneva airport. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with stone fireplace, fitted oak-and-cedar kitchen. Garden. About: £554,620 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234).



FRANCE
Alpine Lodge, Samoens, Haute-Savoie. Recently refurbished chalet, with superb views in a hectare of gardens bordered by a stream. Close to the ski slopes, about a mile from the village of Samoens and an hour from Geneva. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with fireplace, dining room and kitchen. Ground floor area suitable for conversion to a self-contained apartment. About £211,538 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234).

SWITZERLAND
Chalet Floréal, Chateau d'Oex, near Gstaad. Large, balconied first-floor apartment in a south-facing chalet, in a quiet location 20 minutes' drive from Gstaad, and 17 hours from Geneva airport. Three bedrooms (one with en suite bath), shower room, living room with open fireplace, and fully equipped kitchen. About £295,000 (Simon Malster, 0171-499 0321).

OPARIS
FRANCE
Chamonix and Samoens (Haute-Savoie)
Marseille
100 miles

CHATEAU D'OEX
SWITZERLAND
MORCOT
40 miles

WESTOVER ROAD, SW18

A beautifully presented Victorian end-of-terrace house in a prestigious residential road off the west side of Wandsworth Common. 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 recep, kitchen, cellar, 24m (80ft) south east facing garden.

Freehold
£380,000

WANDSWORTH:
0181-871 3033



HORNBURY MEWS, W11

An unusually spacious mews house with a garage, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen, cloakroom, patio garden.

ISA: Knight Frank & Rutley 0171-938 4311

Freehold
£545,000

KENSINGTON:
0171-727 0705

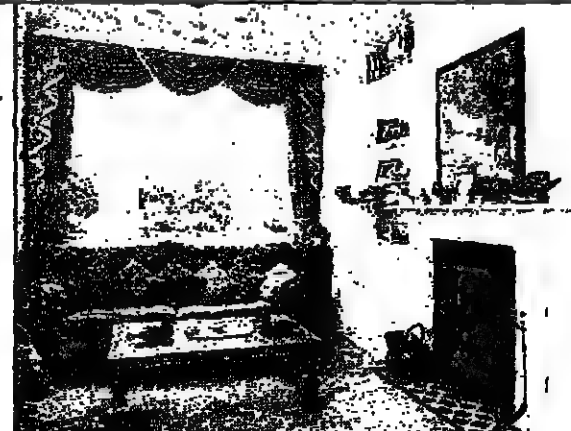


EDDISCOMBE ROAD, SW6

Close to Parsons Green, a charming terraced house with a spacious kitchen and paved garden. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 7.7m (25ft) reception, kitchen, cellar, cloakroom, garden.

Freehold
£297,500

FULHAM:
0171-731 4223



ANHALT ROAD, SW11

In a prestigious road close to Albert Bridge and Battersea Park, a Victorian house recently renovated and enlarged to create a delightful house. 4 beds, 2 baths, shower room, 3 recep, kit, west facing 15.3m (50ft) garden.

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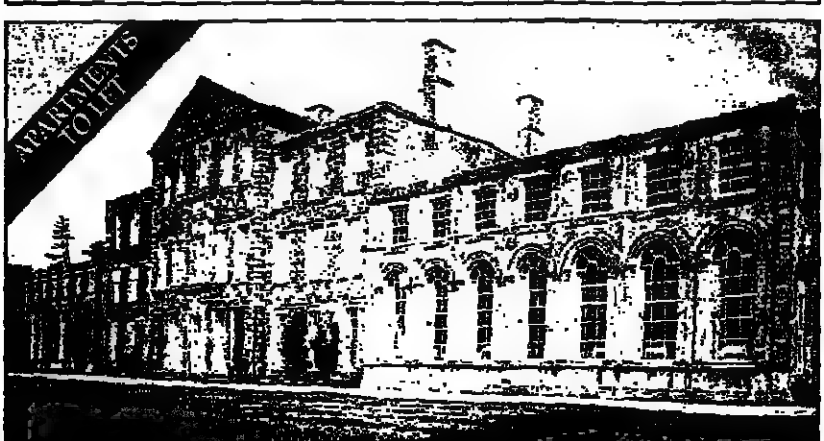


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HAMPSHIRE Sway

A pretty listed 17th century farmhouse about a mile from the open forest. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, 2/3 recep, kitchen, b fast rm. Double garage, stable block, garden & orchard. About 0.16 hectare (0.4 acre).

ISA: Salter Wilde & Co. 01590 625022

Price Guide:
£225,000

LYMINGTON:
01590 677233

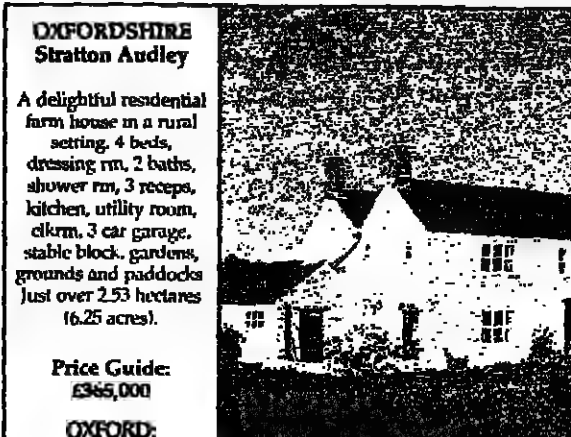


HAMPSHIRE Curridge

Situated in a gardeners' paradise adjoining open countryside, a mellow late 1930's detached bungalow, refurbished and beautifully presented. 2 beds, bath, sitting rm, ckrm, kit/dining rm, garage, established garden of 0.26 hectare (0.65 acre).

Price Guide:
£165,000

WINCHESTER:
01962 963131



OXFORDSHIRE Stratton Audley

A delightful residential farm house in a rural setting. 4 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 recep, kitchen, utility room, ckrm, 3 car garage, stable block, gardens, grounds and paddocks just over 2.53 hectares (6.25 acres).

Price Guide:
£365,000

OXFORD:
01865 311522



PROPERTY

11

R SALE

INE CHALET

FRANCE

SWITZERLAND



Marianne Topham's watercolour of interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room. The artist has also painted St George's Hall, Windsor

The pictures that prove home is where the art is

If, as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, why not commission a portrait of your house? Some people who do this are discovering a bonus: when they come to sell their house the painting or photograph can be used in the estate agent's brochure, as well as being a lasting reminder of their old home.

Many artists are pleased to have such a commission, provided they are given enough freedom of interpretation. Finding an artist who you feel would do justice to your house may be a simple matter of visiting local art galleries, then contacting the artist whose work appeals to you.

Lyn Fiddian-Green asked Robert Bates to paint a picture of the garden at her home in the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire, after buying one of his landscapes at the Lumley-Cazalet gallery in London. Mr Bates, who lives in Castle Gregory on the Dingle peninsula at Kerry, in the Irish Republic, stayed with the family, took copious photographs, made sketches and later produced three small watercolours.

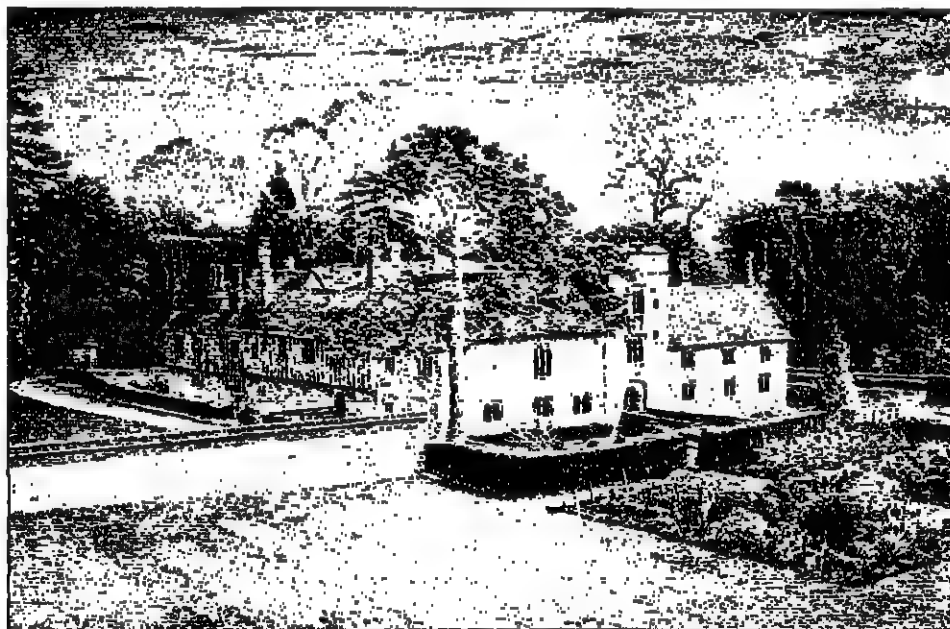
"I was thrilled," Mrs Fiddian-Green says. "I wanted them for my 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, to remind her of her childhood, and Mr Bates has included her in one of the pictures. The colours are beautiful. Lots of people admire the pictures."

Mr Bates, 51, who trained in Birmingham and at the Royal College of Art in London, usually paints small, highly detailed watercolours of landscapes, but is happy to take on house commissions, for which he charges £1,200 to £1,500, plus expenses.

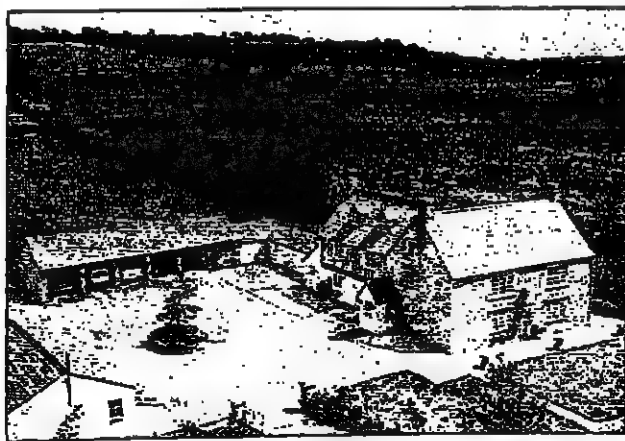
"I've done quite a few as surprises for people, including one of Glyndebourne for a director who was retiring," he says. "The houses tend to be big, an include a couple for the National Trust, such as medieval Igham Mote in Kent."

Rose Cecil, 39, has also painted some surprises, the

The artists with brush or camera who can portray your home as the subject for a lasting memory



Medieval Igham Mote in Kent, a 4 1/2 in by 7 in watercolour by Robert Bates



Highlight's mast-camera picture of a Wiltshire farmhouse

nicest being a present from a best man to a bride and groom — paintings secretly done of their former homes. She also did three paintings of a house in west London for a couple who moved to France and wanted a memento for each of their three children. Her dream commission came re-

cently from Claire Kirkman, who asked her to record her 18th-century house and garden in West Sussex through the four seasons, as a present for her husband. Ms Cecil, who trained at the City and Guilds of London Art College, is compiling about 15 oil and gouache paintings and photo-

graphs for this project. She enjoys variety and is just as happy painting a small town house as grander estates, exteriors or interiors, in oils (which cost about £800 a picture) or watercolours (which cost less). But she is not so keen on houses that have been over-restored, because she feels the intrinsic character of the house can often be obscured.

Marianne Topham prefers detailed watercolours of interiors, charging from £700 to £1,500, although she also does "artist's impressions" of developers' projects, such as those for the brochure for Prospect Quay at Putney, southwest London, a new riverside development.

She trained at the Byam School of Art and later in Florence. She has had coveted commissions, including a watercolour of the interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room, and one of St George's Hall, Windsor.

Aerofilms, of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, takes aerial photographs. The company was started in 1919 and now has three pilots and three photographers working out of Luton airport, plus a picture library of 1 1/2 million photographs spanning 75 years.

The company took the photographs that were joined together to make the title sequence for the television soap *EastEnders*.

Aerofilms charges £395, plus VAT, for four five-inch-square colour prints, and a further £28 for an A4 print selected from a contact sheet of 12, but it will negotiate special rates if clusters of householders in the same neighbourhood want pictures. There is a summer rate of £195 for taking previously ordered pictures while flying in the area on other business.

A cheaper option is offered by Hightsight, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, which has developed a way of taking aerial photographs by using a camera mounted on an 80ft telescopic mast fixed to a van. A small video camera trained on the camera viewfinder is linked to a colour monitor in the van, which enables clients to choose the shots.

This method was developed by Sam Conolly, a former RAF aerial photographer, who accepts jobs throughout the country. "A large framed picture costs about £150, and clients have 12 to choose from," he says.

Hightsight was commissioned by Mike Kennett to photograph his five-bedroom Grade II listed farmhouse near Chippenham. "It was very effective, and people asked if it was taken from a helicopter," he says. "In fact, it showed the house off so well that we decided to use it in the estate agent's brochure after trying to sell the house for nine months. It did the trick."

CHRISTINE WEBB

Fact box

- The artists mentioned above all accept commissions: Robert Bates, 003 536 639367, Rose Cecil, 0171-613 4663, Marianne Topham, 0171-730 8147.
- Aerial photographs are offered by Aerofilms, 0181-207 0666. Mast-camera pictures are taken by Hightsight, 01249 444794.

FOR SALE

MILL HOUSES



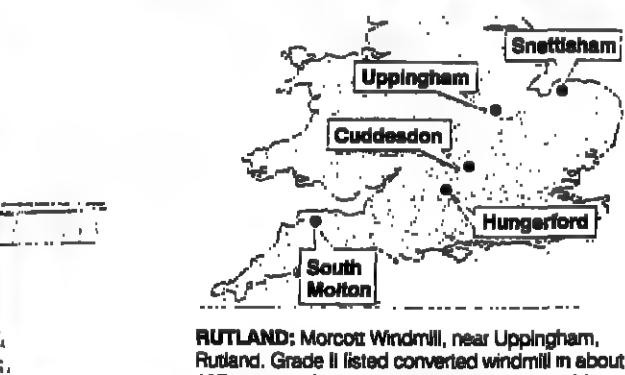
DEVON: Filton Mill, South Molton. Grade II listed former mill house in an acre of gardens, with the millstream running through. Close to the Exmoor National Park. Four bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast room. Garage and stables. About £185,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631)



NORFOLK: The Mill House, Snettisham, near King's Lynn. Mill house and listed 18th-century watermill, in 3F acres of landscaped gardens on the River Ingol, with a mill pool and waterfall. Six bedrooms (four with en suite bathrooms), three reception rooms, study, kitchen and conservatory. About £290,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01603 517431)



OXFORDSHIRE: The Mill House, Cuddesdon. Grade II listed 18th-century mill house with frontage to the River Thame, and an acre of mature gardens. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, drawing room, sitting room, dining hall, kitchen/breakfast room, studio, cloakroom, cellar. Former stables now a garage and store. About £480,000 (John D. Wood, 01865 311522)



RUTLAND: Morcott Windmill, near Uppingham, Rutland. Grade II listed converted windmill in about 10F acres, with planning permission for a stable building and tack room. Bedroom, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen/breakfast room. About £170,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01865 433 123)

WIN A TRIP TO PARIS AND HELP TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES



Shop for Christmas at the Zoo

The feelgood factor will be high if you choose to do your Christmas shopping at London Zoo this year. Not only will you be able to choose gifts from 46 stalls, you will also be helping to preserve the Aquarium and the Zoo's renowned programme for saving endangered species. For £5, readers of *The Times* can buy tickets for the Zoobazaar preview which starts at 6pm on Tuesday, November 28. There will be mulled wine and mince pies plus plenty of time to browse.

Readers who attend the preview will be able to enter a fund-raising raffle with a first prize of two nights in Paris for two people. Winners of the Paris trip, courtesy of EuroDrive, will take their car to the French capital by train on Le Shuttle and stay, on a room-only basis, at the Frantour Berthier hotel, located between Montmartre and the Champs Elysees. It has an indoor swimming pool, four restaurants and an underground car park.

There are three runner-up prizes of a case of red or white wine from the prestigious estate Baron Philippe de Rothschild.



London Zoo is donating two further prizes: an Animal Adoption, which includes a free ticket to the Zoo and a photograph of the winner's favourite species; and a Lifewatch membership, which includes four issues of Lifewatch magazine, invitations to members' events and a ticket for Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. The stallholders are also contributing to the raffle so there will be lots of prizes to win.

Zoobazaar is at the Regency Suite, London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. Preview: Tues, November 28 6pm-9pm, tickets £5. Public day: Wed, November 29, 10am-5pm, tickets £2. To book your ticket and for a list of stallholders, please call 0171 722 7662.

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Originally conceived as a spectacular routine for the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin, the initial 7 minute interlude caused such a sensation that it went on to capture the hearts of the audience at the Royal Variety Performance and from there it developed into a breath-taking live show.

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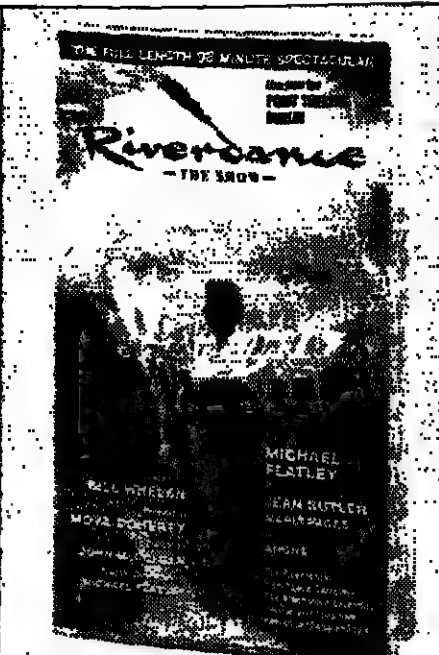
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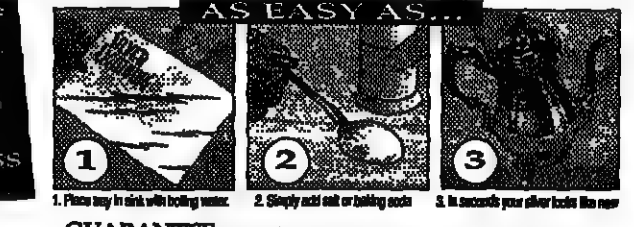
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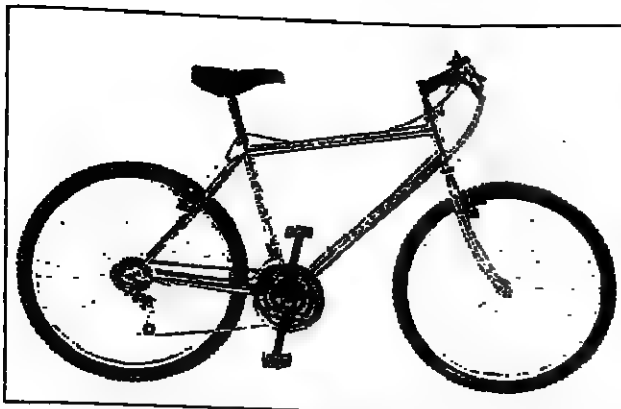
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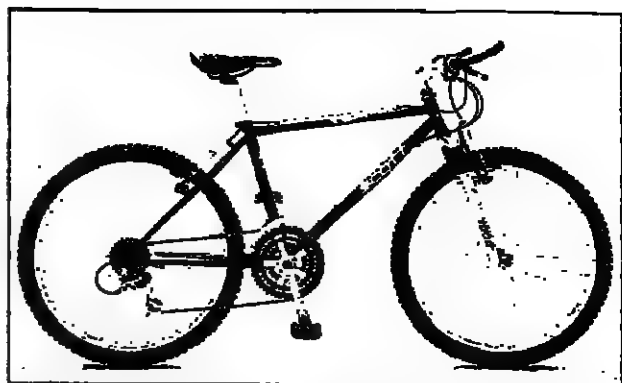
SHOPPING

13

With so many children's bicycles on sale and at widely varying prices, how do you choose?



The £199 Dawes Touchdown, left, the £100 Activator, by Raleigh, and, main picture, Halfords' £34.99 Apollo G Wizz



The £399 Scott, part of a range for nine to 12-year-olds

Ride on: a guide to two-wheel street cred

Autumn heralds the start of the Christmas demands for a new bicycle. If your children are not already harassing you for a dream on wheels, be warned: your time will come. According to the Bicycle Association, 60 per cent of bikes are bought for youngsters and more than 80 per cent of schoolchildren own two-wheel vehicles, which doubtless explains the weight of peer group pressure.

Most bikes for school-age children start at about £60 and can leap up to £300. With the enormous range of colours, sizes and styles available, it is easy to make a costly mistake, especially if your offspring are being seduced by pre-Christmas advertising.

Aim to go to a specialist shop rather than a toy shop. Think twice about bikes that are boxed for home assembly. A good outlet will not only put the bike together for you but also check stability and performance, as well as providing an after-sales service.

This year, Raleigh — established in 1887 and, with 30 per cent of British business, the market leader — has a new reflective paint finish called Reflex. This is achieved by spraying glass beads on to the frame before painting to bright green or dark red.

As well as being a safety feature, it gives the bike the flashy street cred so beloved of children. The Reflex finish is on Raleigh ranges for six to ten-year-olds, including the £130 Isis model for girls, with a 20in wheel and five gears.

Reflex also features in teenage ranges, including the £160 26in-wheel Max 15 mountain bike, which has a granite finish. Another new Raleigh feature is Synchro Shock suspension, which helps the bike to glide smoothly over bumps and potholes. Examples are the £150, five-gear, 20in-wheel Activator 20 range, for seven to ten-year-olds, available in black and metallic red, and the £100 16in-wheel Activator 16 for five to seven-year-olds (black and bright blue). Other traditional bikes include Townsend's 18in-wheel Dancer range, with a rear carrier, for six to nine-year-old girls, in bright red (£95).

Scott UK has a Junior Raring range for nine to 12-year-olds, price £399, with 24in wheels, in dark blue with yellow Scott motif on the



Apollo Turbo, £99.99, from Halfords' junior range

crossbar. Scott is offering a free first service (within the first six months) to all new bike owners.

Mountain bikes account for at least 50 per cent of the children's bike market, according to Jamie Kennedy, deputy editor of *Cycle Industry*, the trade magazine. A true mountain bike has thick, knobby treaded tyres, straight handlebars and up to 24 gears. It also has a small, light frame which glides over rough surfaces. Good examples include the Dawes Cycles Touchdown range for boys and girls with 20/24/26in wheels, 18 gears and cantilever brakes. In green or yellow, it costs £199 for models to suit eight-year-olds and above.

If your children need help with gear-changing, Raleigh has a gripsuit feature on its Max 5 20in mountain bike bikes for seven to ten-year-olds in Reflex Emerald (£149). To change gear, simply twist the grip on the handle bars. This gear-changing-by-feel helps to keep young eyes on the road.

BMX bikes — robust, small frames and only one gear — are making a small comeback this year, says Graham Smith, buyer at Halfords. Even small children can get in on the act with the £44.99 Universal Cycles 12in-wheel BMX Bandit for two to four-year-olds with red frame, plus stabilisers.

Others include the £85 Townsend Tomboy for girls aged five to ten in Bubblegum Pink with 16in, 18in and 20in

wheels. For the over-eights, Universal has the metallic blue £79.99 Super Tracker with 16in or 20in wheels.

Halfords has launched a Price Points range to keep costs down for overburdened parents. It includes the £34.99 postbox-red Apollo G Wizz, which, with a 12in wheel and removable stabilisers, is a good starter bike for three to five-year-olds. Bikes in its Junior Mountain range, with 20in wheels and in colours that include strobe purple/pink and metallic green, for seven to 11-year-olds, cost £79.99 to £144.99.

It is also worth inquiring whether specialist bicycle shops will take an old bicycle in part-exchange.

For today's young rider, accessories are almost as important as the bikes. Stabilisers are usually available on all ranges for five to seven-year-olds but may cost extra so check first.

Some ranges have a sandwich-box carrier and wicker basket in front, among them Summer Breeze by Universal Cycles for four to eight-year-olds, in pink and mint green, and with 16in wheels and stabilisers (£69.99). Raleigh's £90 16in-wheel Genie, for girls aged five to seven, has a doll carrier and removable stabilisers, and is available in red or pink and purple.

JANE BIDDER

Hand-made in the best of British tradition

Crafty thoughts for Christmas giving

AT MIN & DELL, I have discovered a catalogue for anyone who bemoans the fading of traditional British crafts. The company was set up by Anna Nicholas to market products made by older people of her acquaintance and to give the craftsman and women a source of income. The company accepts craftspeople from the age of 50, but some are in their eighties. They work at home, and all products are hand-made using natural materials.

As well as the catalogue items, all of which are exclusive, you can commission knitwear, wooden boxes and animals and silverware. All gifts in the collection are presented in either red cotton drill bags or red presentation boxes with gold tassels.

You could choose from the sterling silver Ammonite collection, which includes a set of four place-card holders (2in long, £89) and menu holders (2½in long, £45 each). Or consider the white "cobweb" christening robe (£75) and shawl (£72, or £130 for the set), of one-ply Shetland wool, with the delicate look of lace.

Min & Dell also sells traditional hand-knits, including a Fair Isle design for girls in navy blue and green with bright ladybirds on front, back and sleeves and ladybird buttons (ages four to five and six to seven, cardigan £35, beret £14).

Silver jewellery is also on offer — cockleshell cufflinks (£38), shirt studs (£36 for four), earrings (£25) and hand-painted cufflinks including Father Christmas on a gold background (£20). There is also some wonderful woodwork in the catalogue, from the simple hand-carved and turned heart-shaped mahogany box (4in diameter £25) and a hand-turned round stud box, also in mahogany (3in diameter £20).

For children, you can choose from five sets of beautifully carved animals — including Dinosaur World (five prehistoric animals, £25), Min & Dell Farm (six farmyard animals, £25) and the Magic Forest (six woodland animals, £25). There is also lovely jewellery and high-quality basketware to consider.

These are things to treasure — traditionally made yet up to the minute in design, so there is nothing stuffy about them.

STEPHANIE LEWIS
For a free catalogue, contact Min & Dell Ltd, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (0171-976 6645, fax 0171-233 9136). Last order date for Christmas is December 20.

Min & Dell's farmyard animals: £25

Other covetable textiles are the hand-made silk and chiffon scarves in marbled soft greens, greys and beiges in generous sizes (silk 43in square, chiffon about 34in square, £40 each). Also good value are the 3½in-square hand-embroidered miniature potpourri cushions (set of four, £25).



SAFETY FIRST

WHATEVER design you choose, the right size is essential. *Jane Kennedy of Cycle Industry* warns against buying a bike that your child "will grow into": an oversize bike can lead to accidents. To find the best frame size, ask your child to stand with flat feet on the floor. Check that the crossbar (the upper tube) is at least three-quarters of an inch below his or her crotch. "A sloping crossbar," says Mr Kennedy, "is even better because it is less likely to hurt your child." For correct saddle height, your child should be able to reach the ground on tiptoes or the balls of the feet while sitting. Look for the British Standard number (BS6012), which guarantees that the bike has passed safety tests. Bikes for under-fives should carry the EN71 safety mark.

A very good safety feature

is a cantilever-brake system, important because it brings the brake pads together on the wheel at the same time for extra stability.

The most suitable wheel size depends on your child's age, height and weight. Two to four-year-olds will probably need 12in wheels, five to seven-year-olds 14in, seven to ten-year-olds 16in and over-ten 20in-plus. Alloy rims make the bike lighter to ride and metal pedals are better than plastic, which can wear quickly and may break.

Buy a helmet at the same time as the bike. Kevin Clinton, technical officer for road safety at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, says surveys show that helmets could reduce head injuries by up to 85 per cent.

He advises buying your child's helmet through the road safety department of your local authority — many offer ranges at reduced prices to encourage buyers. Or go to a good bike shop.

A helmet should fit snugly with the top of the helmet just above the eyebrows," he says. "It should not tilt backwards but cover most of the forehead. The straps should go around the ears, not over, and the child should be able to move his or her head without the helmet slipping."

Reluctant wearers could be persuaded by the flashy end of the market, which features lively colours. Mr Clinton cites the Bell range, which starts at around £20, from most bike shops.

The perennial problem is buying a bike that fits and yet is still a surprise on Christmas Day. Do not be tempted to order by phone or to buy without your child first trying the bike. Bike sellers are happy to collude with parents and promise to pass all the details to Father Christmas.

Where to buy

THESE cycle specialists will put you in touch with stockists:
□ Universal Cycles, 01268 745311;
Dawes Cycles, 0121 7066662; Raleigh, 0115 9420020; Halfords, 0345 626625; Townsend Cycles, 01942 262026; Scott UK, 01670 712129.
□ The Cyclists' Touring Club

publishes a free leaflet entitled *Buying a Bike*. Send a large, stamped, addressed envelope (reference *Buying a Bike/Times*) to the CTC.

Conrell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS (01483 417217).

□ The Bicycle Association publishes a free leaflet *What Bike?* Send an SAE to the association at Starley House, Eaton Road, Coventry CV1 2FH (01203 553838).

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(If only we made stay clean kids.)



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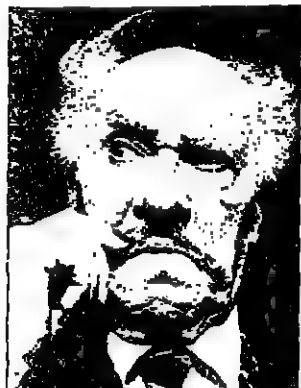
BOOKS

Three knights' bed and board

Michael Arditti revels in the racy details of famous theatrical lives

THREE of the century's best-loved actor-knights, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Robert Stephens, come under the spotlight in the latest batch of theatrical books. Olivier is their common thread, taking the leading role in the diaries of an employee and playing show-stealing cameos in the memoirs of a colleague and the biography of a friend.

In 1956, Olivier appointed the 23-year-old Colin Clark as third assistant director on the film of Rattigan's *The Prince and The Showgirl* which he was making with Marilyn Monroe. Its fairy-tale story was not reflected in the pro-



Richardson: partial to gin

duction. Olivier treated Monroe with condescension; she responded by bringing the worst of Hollywood to Pine-wood. The ensuing mayhem makes it clear why Clark's father, Kenneth, failed to include cinema in his history of civilisation.

Whether stumbling on a naked Monroe ("All I could see were beautiful white and pink curves"), or suffering the proprietorial prurience of her husband, Arthur Miller ("He really is unpleasant"), Clark's observations are a delight.

At the end of the shoot, Olivier went to the Royal Court to play Archie Rice in *The Entertainer*, where his understudy was Robert Stephens. Stephens went on to do much of his finest work for Olivier at the Old Vic, until a fierce row left him to spend

■ **THE PRINCE, THE SHOWGIRL AND ME**
By Colin Clark
HarperCollins, £16.99

■ **KNIGHT ERRANT**
By Robert Stephens
Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99

■ **RALPH RICHARDSON**
By John Miller
Sidgwick & Jackson, £16.99

several years professionally adrift. His career had a remarkable late flowering with his Stratford Falstaff, and his memoirs are similarly Falstaffian in their roguish, rum-bustious lust for life. Green-room gossip will revel in his scurrilous stories; drama students will learn from his technical tips; theatre lovers will cheer his attacks on directors; though critics may wince at his judgments of plays (*The Lady from the Sea* "the most awful claptrap"; *A Patriot for Me* "wonderful"). These are the most irreverent, engaging and amusing theatrical memoirs I have ever read.

John Miller's authorised biography of Ralph Richardson is a far more sober affair, in spite of his subject's penchant for rumples of nearly neat gin. He was an intensely private man and Miller respects his posthumous privacy, so much so that he barely mentions either of his wives.

On hearing that Donald Sinden was writing a book about acting, Richardson advised him, "Don't tell them how it's done", and it is clear that neither Miller nor anyone else quite knows how Richardson did it. Instead, Miller focuses on what he did, from pantomime as Dick Whittington in Birmingham, to his first great stage partnership with Gielgud at the Old Vic, his second with Olivier at the New, ending with the glorious Indian summer with Gielgud in the double act they dubbed "the Broker's Men".

Richardson once said, "Silence is the paper on which the actor writes"; all three of these writers manage to recapture some of its most glorious sounds.

Gerald Kaufman applauds the sheer zest and good nature of Roy Hattersley's political memoirs

Life of the party

■ **WHO GOES HOME?**
Scenes from a political life
By Roy Hattersley
Little, Brown, £17.99

at the shrine of Hugh Gaitskell, of whose shrill "fight and fight and fight again" oration on nuclear disarmament Hattersley recollects that "nothing I have ever heard has moved me as much".

Soon to retire from the Commons, Hattersley looks back on his political career with a long string of anecdotes. For someone who possesses Hattersley's indefatigable writing talent, this sort of

book requires little toil and no need for tedious research (though he has relied on his memory a little too recklessly).

But who cares if he gets wrong the geographical location of Gaitskell's constituency, the title of a Socialist song, the title of a Bergman film, the

spelling of the Labour Chief Whip's surname, or the name of Blackpool's principal hotel? Reference books can provide such information. What reference books cannot provide is the sheer zest for the political life — together with a refreshing absence of malice — that permeates every page of this good-natured book.

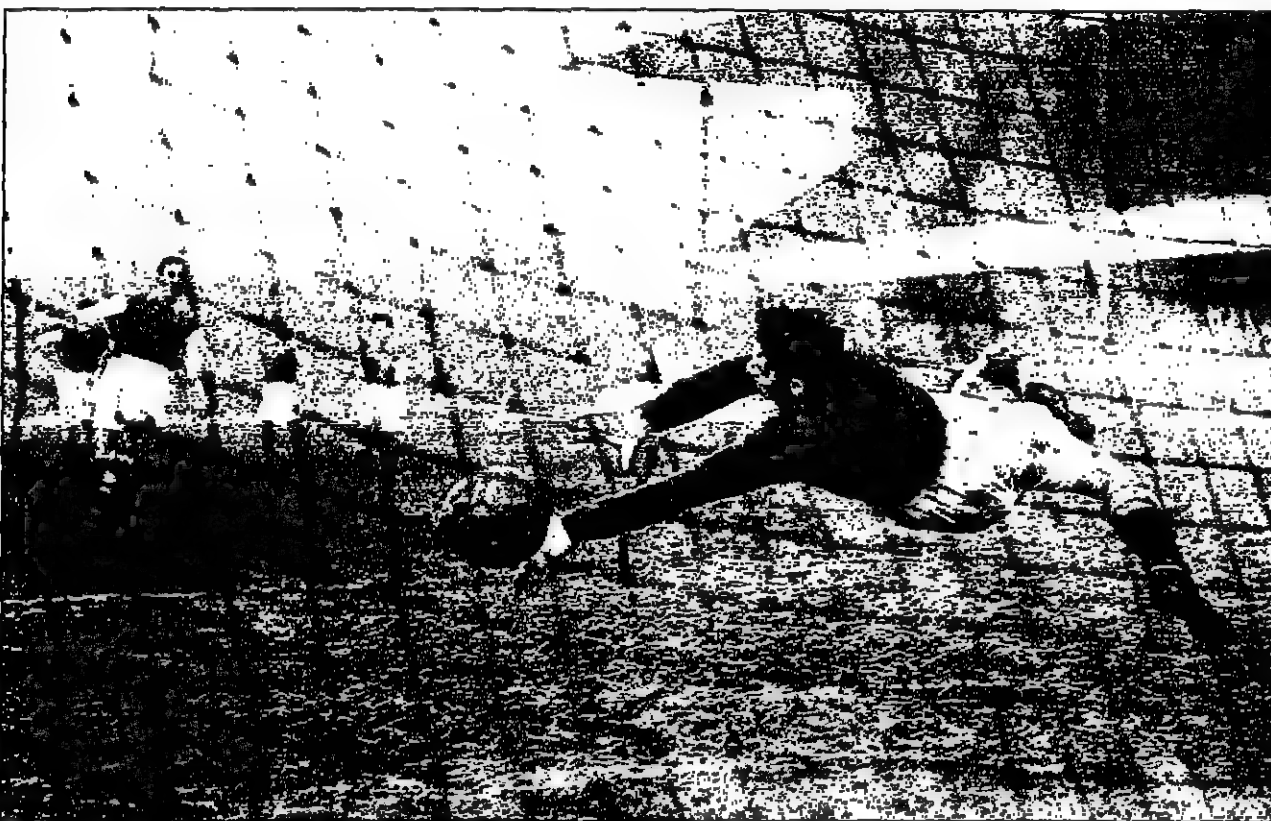
It is true that, with some effort, Hattersley can summon up the tartness to say of David

Owen that he possessed "the power to turn friends into enemies, and the ability to offend when only conciliation was intended". He is much more comfortable writing admiringly of his lamented friend, Tony Crosland, saying that "egalitarian British socialism died with him", and describing how Jim Callaghan, as Foreign Secretary, forced a bevy of British ambassadors to pay for the copies

of the Labour Party manifesto with which he supplied them.

Hattersley declares that he owes "the best parts of my life to the Labour Party". He repaid that debt in 1981 when, instead of stampeding out of the party with "that nice Mrs Williams and that clever Dr Owen", he (with others of us) stood his ground and so saved Labour until the time when Tony Blair would enter into his inheritance.

However, David Owen was right about one thing — if, perhaps, only one — when he remarked to Jim Callaghan, "Say what you like about old Hattersley, he stabs you in the front, not the back".



Shooting for glory: Ipswich centre-forward Garneys beats the Bournemouth goalkeeper, Godwin, at Highbury in 1952

VERY much a game of two halves, this latest model from the latest boom industry: football publishing. The first part is fascinating, dealing with 25 years either side of the Second World War, up to about 1970, when football was the national game, thanks largely to the sheer size of the working class.

Those were the days when even second division games drew crowds as big as the populations of small cities: when everybody ate chips, drank pints and smoked 40 fags a day — and that was just the players: when "it was a way of life in which men found their niche because there weren't any women on the ter-

Before the bung went in

■ **KICKING AND SCREAMING**
By Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward
Robson Books, £16.95

aces", according to Jack Curtis, one of the 200 or so interviewees whose testimonies make up the book.

This golden age is recalled with wit and colour and an admirable lack of sentiment. But then came money, tele-

vision, glamour, celebrity, hooliganism and two decades in which most men found something else to do with their Saturday afternoons. Too much of the second half concentrates on coaching techniques, and a familiar chronological treatment of the English national side.

The shortcomings of oral history mean that a full analysis of what went wrong with the culture of English football from 1970 to 1990 is absent. Still, the game is now recovering, and this and the many other worthwhile books on its history are part of that process.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

On the road to himself

Jan Morris admires what may be Paul Theroux's best travel book yet

THIS smashing book is a sort of anthology, or epitome, of Therouxness. It ostensibly describes a protracted and timeless journey around the shores of the Mediterranean, by train, ship, taxi and, all too often, unspeakably uncomfortable bus. It really describes Paul Theroux.

This is an extremely intricate subject in itself, and set against so tangled and varied a background it assumes a new complexity, even it seems for Theroux himself. Often he stops to wonder what on earth he is up to, and why he has been ambling about in this apparently aimless way. "I was not writing a book — I was living my life..."

The Theroux techniques become more subtle with each work, whether it be novel or travel book. On the face of it, *The Pillars of Hercules* is the purest kind of travel writing, recounting the events of a journey day by day. The author tells us what happened, he records what was said, he recalls what he has been thinking. But between the lines an elaborate self-portrait is developing. At first the narrator seems positively glib; halfway through the book he is in full character as the celebrated travelling curmudgeon; and by the end of the long adventure (a year and a half), he has established an oddly wistful new persona as The Wanderer, or The Man Without A Shadow, frequently telephoning home to Honolulu to appease his loneliness.

His journey is mostly ghostly. What dismal hotels he stays in. What a lot of pornography he finds. How he loathes Greeks, bullfighters and British tourists. What

■ **THE PILLARS OF HERCULES**
By Paul Theroux
Hamish Hamilton, £17.50

horrible Israeli immigration men he encounters. For Therouxians such as me, this is, of course, music to the ear. We do not want Theroux contented, we want him truculent and resentful.

But there are many generous perceptions in this book, too, flashes of history, ever-



Theroux: oddly wistful

lively descriptions, bags of courage, and shrewd debunkings of ostentation and autocracy. It all looks so easy, and I imagine there are tyros all over the world trying to write travel books in the Theroux manner. But, of course, his is the art, and it is art of the cleverest kind.

This is a terrific book, full of fun as well as anxiety, of vivid characters and curious experiences — perhaps the best of all Theroux's travel books. The foreground (Theroux) is unforgettablely portrayed and the background (the Mediterranean) has never been more gruesomely glimpsed.

Language barrier

THE UNNAMED heroine of *A Feather on the Breath of God* describes the perfect ballerina's body as "one long curveless line, fleshless, all muscle and bone", which is a pretty good description of Sigrid Nunez's delicate, spare prose. Language and ways of telling are of vital importance in this extraordinary first novel, in which life is presented as something encoded and inextricably bewildering.

In the narrator's household, her Chinese father hardly speaks at all; her German mother teaches herself English, thereby setting up another degree of separation between herself and the uncommunicative husband she detests.

This tragically mismatched couple met in Germany after the Second World War. Both come from backgrounds complicated beyond the dangers and unsettledness of wartime: neither feels at home in New York, where they live precariously. They are cruelly lost in translation.

The effect on their daughter is heartbreaking. She grows up without anything that might be remotely described as normal: her only experience of families sharing meal times, making conversation or showing affection is from

■ **A FEATHER ON THE BREATH OF GOD**
By Sigrid Nunez
Bantam, £5.99

watching television sitcoms — a poor guide to the real world.

For a time, ballet lessons provide her with a glorious structure. Pain and tedium, for so long a part of her existence, are, in the form of dance exercises, a means to a dreamy end. Later, men become the focal point. Early neglect has given her a longing to be the object of desire. In the masterly concluding section of the book, she describes a ruinous affair with Vadim, a Russian immigrant, as close to a lover from hell as any man can be: pimp, druggie and married to somebody else. The most seductive thing about him is his newly acquired English, which he transforms into a tongue that throbs with passion: "I very love you". "When you put your head on my breast, my heart runs out of me".

For all that, this is a deeply moving story of a harsh and sometimes terrifying upbringing. It is sweetened by a penetrating and sardonic candour that makes you laugh through your tears.

PENNY PERRICK

This is an unforgettable true story. It is a story of childhood friendships, of dreams twisted into nightmares, and of four men prepared to risk their lives.



sleepers

Lorenzo Carcaterra

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KILLING TIME

MICHAEL JOSEPH

Death stalks United Nations week in New York as spymaster David Jardine battles against the clock

BOOKS

15

England, their England

Elizabeth Buchan on a humane and honest portrait of middle-class, postwar society

CASTING OFF
By Elizabeth Jane Howard
Macmillan, £15.99



Howard: grace and intelligence

July 1945 sees the family in some disarray. The war has made inroads: spiritually, physically and financially. The Brig and the Duchy are old. Hugh, the eldest son, is still grieving for the death of his wife, Sybil. Edward, the second son, is hovering between his wife, Villy, and his good-looking mistress, Diana. Rachel is retreating further into duty while Sid watches in despair. Rupert has returned from occupied France and is endeavouring to rebuild his marriage to Zita.

The young are casting off. Inadequately mothered, Louise, an inadequate mother in turn, is locked into an awful marriage. Polly is recovering from her unrequited love for Archie, the Cazalets' most trusted friend. Clary is splintering into its separate units and detaching from Home Place in Sussex, where the wives and children took refuge from the bombs. And, along with old assumptions and certainties, servants are vanishing and

Off is pessimistic. On the contrary, although it is more fractured in feel than the previous volumes, it relies on a conventional romantic structure to tie up the ends. A fresh wind is also blowing through the story and change is taking place. Polly, Clary and Louise are beginning to take charge of their lives in a manner denied to their mothers. As Hugh woos another woman, he tells her, "I want to know how you feel": a triumphant regeneration after a marriage whose jungle paths had been so tangled around politeness and diffidence that neither party was ever honest with the other.

If reading fiction is to try on other people's lives for the fit, then the Cazalets' Chronicle is virtually without a wrinkle. With their immersion in everyday detail and their careful delineation of the gap between classes and generations, the novels constitute a precise and convincing piece of social history.

Yet, to consider that this is the total sum is wrong. In *Casting Off*, and in the others, the author draws the reader with seemingly effortless grace, craft and intelligence into the inner lives of her characters, and into the subterranean emotions and loyalties of a family, and does so with a radiant humanity and truth.

Who dares to live to tell the tale

IMMEDIATE ACTION
By Andy McNab
Bantam, £15.99

ONE OF the most memorable television images of the past decade was of the black-clad SAS storming the Iranian embassy in 1980. Before then, the public knew little of the Special Air Service or its motto "Who Dares Wins". But that single, fearless act, beamed into every British home, transformed the Regiment into a national fixation, spawning scores of books and films of variable quality.

Andy McNab's new memoir is the real thing, I doubt that his vivid recollections of years in the SAS reveal much that Britain's enemies did not know already. Nonetheless, it is not hard to see why the Ministry of Defence tried to ban this book. The strength of *Immediate Action* lies in its detail. After more than 300 pages, one has a sense of what it is to be one of the world's most lethal soldiers.

This book's predecessor, *Bravo Two Zero*, an account of SAS action behind enemy lines in the Gulf War, was a compelling read, full of gamey language and recollections of endurance. In *Immediate Action*, McNab tells the story of his military career up till then, and tells it well.

A tearaway from Bermondsey, McNab discovered he had an instinctive aptitude for army life. For this promising young infantryman, joining the SAS quickly became an obsession and the first third of the book describes his gruelling selection tests. Day after day, he marched in full kit through all weathers to make the grade. He was then sent to the Malaysian jungle to withstand the least comfortable conditions in the world. Accepted as one of the team, McNab embarked upon a life of astonishing danger and intermittent violence — a life he relished until he left the army as its most decorated serviceman.

It is said that you have to be a psychopath to be in the SAS, but this book tells a different tale. What shines through is a sense of belonging, a fierce and patriotic desire to defend squadrons, regiments, army, nation.

Even before joining the SAS, McNab says of his first Ulster tour that "I was there because I wanted to do something for my own little gang". It is this simple integrity that makes *Immediate Action* much more than a jingoistic adventure story.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

Nelson Mandela and his Afrikaner prison guard became unlikely friends, says Justin Cartwright

Jailer to the President

AS I READ the extraordinary story of the friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer, James Gregory, I found tears in my eyes, even though at times I wondered if the book gives anything like the whole story. Some of the doubts are in the detail. The burgeoning of their relationship, for instance, is left rather vague and the Robben Island section of it, 13 years, is less significant to Mandela than the book suggests. Mandela in his autobiography says that they became close only after his transfer to Pollsmoor in 1982.

Enough quibbling. It seems that from the moment in 1969 when Gregory saw Mandela standing tall, "his ramrod back and broad shoulders prominent" amid a group of prisoners on Robben Island, he was on the way to finding the father figure his life had, so far, lacked. Gregory was a loner, an Afrikaner farm boy who had been neglected by his parents. Gregory, or his collaborator, makes much of his early upbringing on a farm, where his only friend was a Zulu boy, Bafana, from whom he was separated when he went away to school.

Gregory's history is, in some ways, typical of the Afrikaners who joined the civil service in numbers. Government employment gave many economically marginal Afrikaners a living after apartheid's formal introduction, so the police and prison service have long been a home for the young, the tough and the none too fastidious.

Yet Gregory was clearly different. He tells of Mandela's distress at the treatment of his family, and his longing

GOODBYE BAFANA:
Nelson Mandela, My Prisoner
My Friend
By James Gregory
Headline, £17.99

to see his children and grandchildren. When Mandela's son was killed in a motor accident, Gregory then a young man, lent him what support he could. At exactly the same age and almost 20 years later, Gregory's son was killed in a car crash and Mandela appears to have saved Gregory from despair and even suicide by talking to him daily for weeks.

For 24 years, Gregory had to censor Mandela's letters and listen to his family meetings. He does not say if he was expected to report them to Pretoria, but he acquired a knowledge of the intimate details of Mandela's family life second to none. The more he was involved personally in their lives, the more he tried to be as helpful and considerate in small detail as he could.

Although not every detail of the book rings true, it is a remarkable story full of touching moments. The account of Gregory holding Mandela's hand and reassuring him in front of astonished nurses as he came round from an operation brought tears to my eyes for the umpteenth time. And Winnie's horror on learning that Nelson had learnt from a warder how to make a *braai*, the barbecue which is a quintessential white South African pastime, is hilarious.

In the end Gregory's desolation at the prospect of losing Mandela's company — "the many wonderful hours we spent together" — is heartbreakingly authentic.



Taking his first steps away from his jailers, Nelson Mandela walks out of prison

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Oliver Letwin on Simon Jenkins and Peter Hennessy; Woodrow Wyatt on the Gladwyn diaries; and Mark Steyn on Dennis Potter

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER FACE. REVERSO DUO.

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NEW IN PAPERBACK

THE EVENING STAR
By Larry McMurtry
Orion, £6.99

FOLLOWING his bitter-sweet blockbuster, *Terms of Endearment*, Larry McMurtry has produced a sequel in *The Evening Star* which, despite its airport novel size and cover, is resonant with the same gentle irony and acid observations of family life which made its predecessor so appealing.

Fifteen years after the death of her daughter, Aurora Greenway approaches her seventies with her feisty maid and sidekick, Rosie Duolap. Her grandchildren have gone their own ways: one of them, Tommy, serving a life sentence for murder. Aurora's approach to

life remains the same winning combination of vanity, charm and reluctant kindness and Rosie provides an ally in her continuing and highly enjoyable manipulation of both suitors and friends. By the end of the book, Aurora is forced to acknowledge the roll of time that brings a new generation to centre stage.

McMurtry shows consummate skill in exposing the haunting sadness that hovers beneath the seemingly ordinariness of life. He is attuned more to the shadows than the bright lights of human activity and identifies the randomness of events; celebrating the courage with which we face old age and, finally, death.

MY LIFE
By Marc Chagall
Peter Owen, £12.95

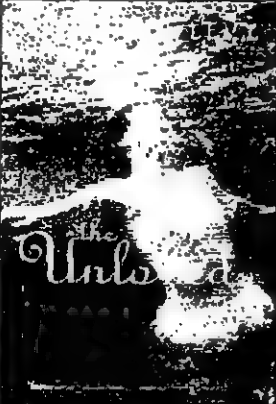
BORN into an impoverished Jewish family in the depths of Tsarist Russia at a time when Jews required a permit to travel even within their own country, Chagall nevertheless rose to become one of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century. Studied with his own illustrations, this wildly sentimental but utterly enchanting memoir takes us on a breathless journey from childhood escapades to art school in St Petersburg with Countess Tolstoy and Nijinsky, to his tribulations during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. A treat.



THE HOUNDING OF JOHN THOMAS
By Craig Brown
Arrow, £5.99

HAVING bettered himself with elocution lessons, the former Mellors (who has changed his name to Oliver Thomas to escape notoriety) loses Lady Chatterley to another man but makes a fortune in groceries and sends his son to Oxford. There, the obnoxious John Thomas hones the talents that will make him a brilliantly corrupt politician who makes Francis Urquhart seem tame. But his luck runs out when he makes a mess of murdering a biographer who was about to reveal his parentage. This superbly witty satire targets everyone from prime ministers to lavatory attendants.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Jake Michie, Nicki Household, Alison Burns



THE UNLOVED
By Deborah Levy
Vintage, £5.99

A CHRISTMAS holiday in Normandy. Open fires, oysters and calvados, games of Murder in the Dark. A child reads her rebellious grandmother's diary, dated "Tangiers, 1957". Outside, thin trees shiver, while inside, just flickers between the grown-ups and terrible international memories are revived. While the children eavesdrop and fantasise, the adults corrupt each other. Husbands go rutting. Food rots in the refrigerator. Even Inspector Blanc, investigating a real murder, uses a knife-blade for his lovelorn. Deborah Levy's surreal chiller takes an X-ray of European culture and elegantly pronounces it dead.

WATERSTONE'S QUIZ ANSWERS

THE ANSWERS to the Bookworm quiz in our supplement A New Chapter on October 5 were as follows:

- 1 Geoffrey Chaucer, 2 William Shakespeare, 3 John Donne, 4 G. B. Edwards, 5 George Louis Buffon, 6 Milton Keynes, 7 Blood, 8 Fanny Price, 9 Anthony Price, 10 A Cynic, 11 Turning of the Screw, 12 Cuts, 13 Thomas Bowdler, 14 Moll Flanders, 15 Dr James Hargreaves, 16 House of the Medallions, 17 Cedric Belfrage, 18 Women in Love, 19 Nicholas Dyer, 20 Hawthorne, 21 Catherine Mortimer, 22 Northanger Abbey, 23 Waverley, 24 The Poet, 25 All men are the Nobel Prize for Literature, 26 P. H. Newby, 27 The Goodbye Girl, 28 Lord Emsworth, 29 Frederick Raphael, 30 T. S. Eliot, 31 Pausanias, 32 Chaim Potok, 33 Anthony Trollope, 34 David Lodge, 35 Norman Mailer, 36 Margaret Forster, 37 A. A. Wilson, 38 G. S. Ross, 39 Raymond Chandler, 40 Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 41 The Color of Money, 42 F. Scott Fitzgerald, 43 D. H. Lawrence, 44 Ernest Hemingway, 45 Joachim Maria Machado de Assis.

There were two typographical errors: Question 8 should have read Sir Thomas, not Edmund, Bertram. Question 25 should have read "pneumatic", not "eternal", bias. These two questions were discounted when entries were marked.

DOROTHY DUNNETT

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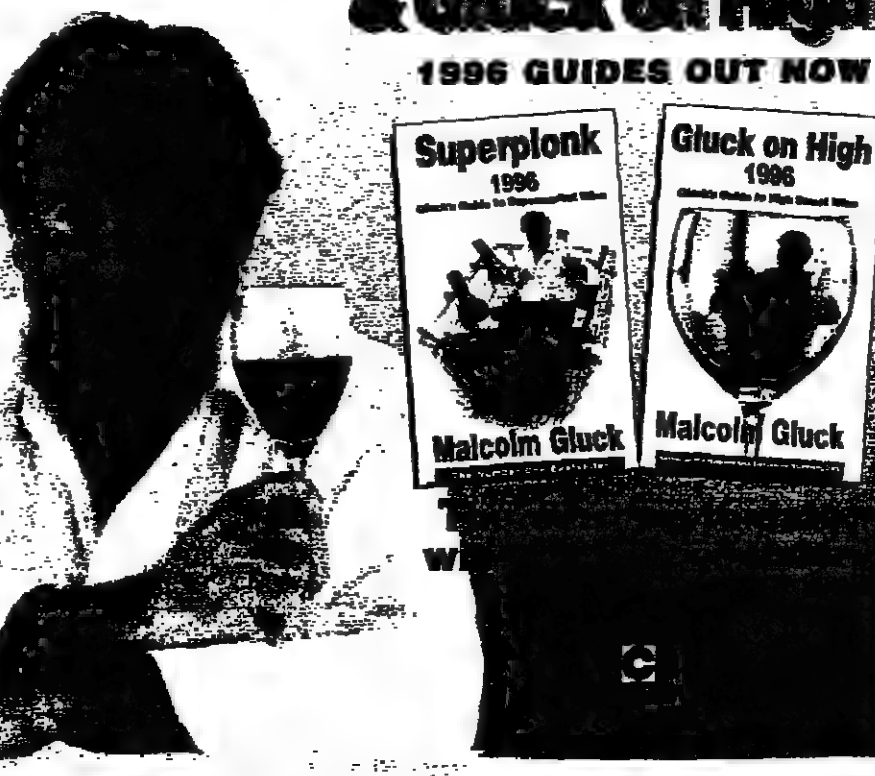
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IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO KENYA

In our
there is
to eni

... Plus, where to take the family for a weekend of activity or relaxation in beautiful English countryside

A chance to tone up and wind down

If your idea of a relaxing weekend is staying at a smart hotel, catching up on books, eating and drinking to mild excess and then taking gentle walks, don't book into Foxhills. The country club near Ottershaw, Surrey, not far from where the M25 crosses the M3, could provide this if you choose. But this is more a place for energetic types, those who prefer the rapid route to working off Christmas.

Our "active break" was in mid-June, when the rhododendron bushes were in glorious purple bloom, and the golf course beyond the lawns looked invitingly lush. In a couple of days, determined to make the most of our stay, we went activity mad.

The children, aged 5 and 3,

The children had been looked after in the crèche, while my wife had had a supervised workout in the new health spa. As someone who enjoys the full ghostliness of rowing machines and weights, she was a discriminating customer. Happy and dripping, she came out impressed by the fitness plan tailored for her.

Later the children swam with me in the indoor pool (two heart-stopping moments, as shallow suddenly becomes deep with little warning, and there was no life-guard). They went riding in the countryside, and both parents in a moment of eccentricity booked themselves in for "body exfoliation and lymph-drainage massage" in the bedroom before dinner, while the babysitter looked after the girls.

I have nothing against massage. But how can you tell, after being scraped all over by a mild kitchen scourer that a) your "detoxification" has been aided; b) that your "fluid retention" has been reduced; and c) that your skin has been "refreshed"? And was it worth £27? Well, the aromatherapy oils were nice. My wife felt so relaxed that she could hardly rouse herself for dinner.

The food at Foxhills is good, the buffet on Sunday in the attractive manor especially luscious, with temptation beyond what should be allowed. Breakfast was in a restaurant with views over the golf course. Our middle-of-the-range rooms were spacious and comfortable; grander ones with sitting-room and gallery are luxurious.

We didn't get around to squash, archery, boules, billiards, steam rooms, sauna, other beauty treatments, or jazz, tap and modern dance classes (for adults or children), though my wife squeezed in a hi-tech step class. The staff, whether on the court, in the gym, or in the dining-room, were all first rate.

Relaxing? Extremely. I barely had time to read a word.

TIMOTHY RICE

● The author was a guest of Foxhills, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0EL (01832 873050). Active Break Weekends start from £260 per couple, including two nights half board and complimentary use of all facilities except beauty treatments. 18-hole golf and riding. Foxhills is booked up for Christmas, but there are children's seasonal celebrations on December 17.



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Hours of playtime on Broadway

From the top of Broadway Tower in the Cotswolds — built on a hill 1,025ft above sea level — you can see 12 counties on a clear day. So the guide books say. On a clear, frosty morning last winter I climbed. I looked and I saw. But nobody could tell me what I was seeing, and everyone I asked, from local shopkeepers to the tourist office, seemed baffled about why I should want to know the names of the 12 counties.

A relaxed atmosphere pervades Broadway and makes it an ideal escape from the hurly-burly of city life. Melow stone houses dot the high street across an immaculate green. Most are 18th century, and many have leaded windows set off by aged topiary.

Plumb in the centre of the town is the Lygon Arms, which has been an inn for 400 years. It is a favourite with the Cheltenham Gold Cup race-going crowd. It is also the best place for a cosy winter weekend: grand-father clocks tick time away; log fires roar; and food, as opposed to cuisine, is served — sausages, rabbit with chestnut and brandy sauce, and proper puddings.

In the old days, an inn had to offer only decent stabling, good food, comfortable beds and welcoming log fires. Today, the Lygon Arms has yielded to the demands of fashion with a smart indoor swimming-pool and a large beauty area. "Relax while the Faradic pads simulate exercise," says the pamphlet in the beauty area — "especially effective



The 400-year-old Lygon Arms in Broadway offers cosy weekends, with its roaring log fires and good English food

on stomach and buttocks," and "The Hollywood facial for those with premature lines."

Children are welcomed to the Lygon Arms with open arms and a set of Body Shop soaps and bubbles with which to flood the bathroom. This is a good area for families, with scenic walks and cycling. To the right of the church, a track leads into

open countryside and hills in the distance — the Cotswold Way. This 100-mile walk, through some of the heart of England's most idyllic countryside, runs from Chipping Campden to Bath, and is a cheaper way to trim the fat than a trip to the Lygon Arms beauty parlour.

Shopholes are served by the town itself, known as the Bond Street

of the Cotswolds: tasteful shops sell jewellery, silk clothes, ghastly gifts and delicious cream teas.

The Lygon Arms has a peaceful garden, offering a foretaste of some of England's most renowned gardens, which are a short and picturesque drive away for those who choose to stay in spring or summer. Snowhill, a mile away, is a pretty,

Fact file

□ The author was a guest of The Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcester-shire (01386 852255).

□ A standard double room with ensuite bathroom costs £140 per night excluding VAT and including breakfast.

□ A four-day Christmas programme beginning December 23, from £252 per person per day for a single room, includes morning tea, meals, entertainment and use of the Country Club.

□ Broadway Tourist Office (01386 852 937)

almost cottage-style garden on a grand scale. Seznecote, near Moreton-in-Marsh, is a grander affair, with a water garden meandering down one side of a hill giving glorious views across the Cotswolds. Hidcote Manor, near Chipping Campden, is one of Britain's most famous gardens, created at the turn of the century by the Francophile American, Lawrence Johnston.

And those 12 counties to be seen from Broadway Tower? For the record, they are: Hereford and Worcester, Dyfed, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Avon and Gwent.

JANE OWEN

Oh, to stay in England

There is something satisfying about filling the boot of a car with suitcases, boots, and the rest of leisure's paraphernalia — then sweeping past the holiday-makers streaming into an airport.

While those who are convinced that relaxation can only be found beyond these shores were still waiting in the departure lounge, we were turning off the motorway and into an England which must still be one of the most beautiful, unspoilt and relaxing places in the world.

The Lords of the Manor Hotel, in the Cotswolds village of Upper Slaughter, is one of hundreds throughout Britain which were once grand country houses. Many, such as Lords of the Manor, are now run by people determined to re-create the grace of the past. And they are now appealing to the hedonism of those who are prepared to spend as much on pampering themselves over a long weekend as they would on a ten-day holiday in a Mediterranean, purpose-built resort.

But Upper Slaughter is middle England, cold in the early summer, uncomplicated, empty — and entralling. In the hotel there are deep pile carpets, staff to take care



The 18th-century Hunstrete House set in 92 acres

of everything from parking the car to producing a delectable pre-dinner dry sherry in the bedroom, croquet and fine food. The fillet of turbot, for example, is alone reason enough to justify the hotel's Michelin star, three AA red roses and Good Food Guide prize for County Restaurant of the Year.

Lords of the Manor, with many other hotels in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World chain, offers "No Guilty Conscience" breaks, where guests are encouraged to "over-indulge, appear extravagant or eat and drink the 'wrong' things".

Weekend breaks cost from £80 a night per person and include à la carte dinner, English breakfast and VAT. For not much more you may be able to fly to Majorca for a week. I depends what you want. I know what I prefer.

So much so, that my wife and I repeated the experience, this time at Hunstrete House near Bath, one of the growing number of country-house hotels owned by the Arcadian group. The 18th-century house in 92 acres of deer park, woodland and gardens, which provide much of the produce used in the cooking, is elegant and welcoming.

Propped against the door as we arrived were a couple of bicycles. Neither of us had ridden for more years than we cared to remember, but down the cow-parsleyed lane we went. A pint in the pub a few miles away, and then back to wines of quality, dinner to satiate both gourmands and gourmet and the high, well-coming cotton-sheeted bed. A two-night break, including dinner, bed, breakfast, morning tea and newspapers, costs £185 per person.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

English country hotel fact file

□ The author was a guest of both hotels. Lords of the Manor (01451 820243) has Christmas and New Year breaks ranging from £145 per person for two nights immediately before or after Christmas, to £525 for three nights in one of the best bedrooms and meals from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day. Midweek breaks from November 1 to April 1996 from £69.50 per night with à la carte dinner and breakfast.

□ Hunstrete House (01761 490490) charges £525 per person for the three-night Christmas break, with meals. One night on New Year's Eve costs £175 including dinner and breakfast. The Christmas break carries a £120 room supplement and New Year's Eve a supplement of £40 for single occupancy of a double or twin room.

CHRISTMAS HOTEL TIPS

□ Oakley Court Hotel at Windsor (01753 009 988) will arrange Boxing Day boating down the Thames to Eton, as well as champagne, mince pies, a candlelit Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus. *Michael Leventhal writes.* Three-night packages with full board cost £395 per person.

□ Farm and Cottage Holidays (01237 479698) has Cornish cottages with wooden beams and log fires for the Christmas period. Retreats in quiet hamlets start at £241 per cottage for a week.

□ Grand Heritage Hotels (0171-376 1777) is holding a German Beer Keller evening on Christmas Day at the Redworth Hall Hotel and Country Club in Co Durham, near Newcastle upon Tyne and guided tours of the Ripley Castle Estate in York, five miles south of Harrogate. Full-board packages cost between £275 and £375 per person for four nights.

□ Nailcote Hall near Stratford, Warwickshire (0181-390 8513), hosts a Christmas murder-mystery package where guests piece together clues and solve the murder of Santa Claus. Prices start from £489 per person for a four-day half-board break and include briefings with former CID detectives.

□ Acorn Activities (01432 830083) offers an activity break from December 23-26 at Beacons Edge Country Inn on the Hereford/Wales border. £220 per person, including abseiling and white-water rafting. Acorn also offers three nights Castle Pool Hotel, Hereford, from December 24-27. £375 per person, including a Murder Mystery Dinner and pony-trekking. Both breaks include Christmas lunch.

□ The Marine Highland Hotel at Troon, Ayrshire, is offering a Scottish Christmas with whisky tasting and a trip to the Ayr Races on Boxing Day. Three-night packages cost £295, per person with full board (Super-break Mini-Holidays: 01904 679999).

□ Ninety Travel Ints (reservations: 01832 434341) are offering special cut-price holiday rates at Christmas and the New Year. Each room, accommodating up to two adults and two children, costs £34.50 per night, excluding meals.

There will be more tips next week.



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AUSTRALIA: A cruise on the highway through sandy scrublands and a dive to spectacular coral

A thousand miles on the open road

MY WIFE and I, two late fortysomethings, are in Kalgoorlie as part of a year out to see more of Australia than the familiar Sydney-Barrier Reef-Ayers Rock package. We've bought a second-hand four-wheel-drive Toyota and caravan, but our route from Perth to Adelaide, known as crossing the Nullarbor, can be done leisurely in a week in a hired car or campervan.

It's a trip most Australians try to avoid. Several motorists claim to have seen UFOs, and truckdrivers have hallucinated at night. The Eyre Highway is widely seen as too far, too flat, too hot and, above all, too boring.

Yet it's an appealing "open road" adventure, recalling an era when long distance driving was more expedition than excursion. It follows much of the route pioneered by the explorer John Eyre in 1841 and reveals country and characters you don't find in the travel brochures.

On the road between Norseman and Balladonia, roughly the distance between London and Birmingham, we see only 30 other vehicles. The road slices through a forest of towering pink-and-silver gum trees leaving space only for a ribbon of vivid blue sky. After 50 miles the trees surrender to reveal an enormous sky and a far-distant horizon.

Balladonia, the first of 15 roadhouses as you head east, merits a significant dot on the map for a population of nine. It is a combined truckstop, bar, restaurant, motel and caravan park, the only buildings for 100 miles and not a place where you expect to be greeted by a flamboyant hostess who appears more in tune with Broadway than the Bush. Brenda Greening, who left Nottingham in 1974, has run the Balladonia Roadhouse for

the past five years. Wearing a black and white designer leisure suit and stylish white shoes, she is sitting on a bar stool mingling with a few truckdrivers and a shearer who has travelled from a farm 130 miles away for a drink. Their shorts, cutaway singlets and working boots suggest that they don't give a XXXX for Dior.

The road to Caiguna is one of the longest straight stretches in the world: it lasts for almost 100 miles.

The vast emptiness of the Australian interior is dramatically emphasised from the

of cormorants use an abandoned jetty as a grandstand to watch the ocean. Eucla, population 50, is paradise, apart from the March flies that buzz into life in midsummer. These green-bodied monsters attack in squadrons, delivering a sharp sting which has no after-effects, although it is unpleasant enough to deter any lingering.

Across the border in South Australia, the highway runs on a cliff-top following the Southern Ocean. Most drivers, eager to press on, ignore the gravel tracks that lead to the edge and miss the striking coastline of the Great Australian Bight. The jagged brown and white cliffs extending for 500 miles resemble enormous teeth marks, as if millions of years ago something actually bit huge chunks out of the state.

There are no surprises crossing the Nullarbor itself. For 20 miles, the highway runs across the southern tip of the notorious treeless plain — a grey-green flat scrubland where any bush more than 2ft high could be accused of showing off or suspected of having its own secret water supply. It's taken the Nullarbor millions of years to produce this sparse vegetation. What's here is probably the best it's going to get.

In summer the tail end of the highway turns into a wheat field 100 miles long, until the foothills of the Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta. South Australia's crossroads town, North to Darwin, east to Sydney, South to Adelaide, a long distance traveller's dormitory, a one-night-only place at the end of the only metalled road across the bottom half of Australia, the 1,000-mile Eyre Highway.

JOHN MCLEOD

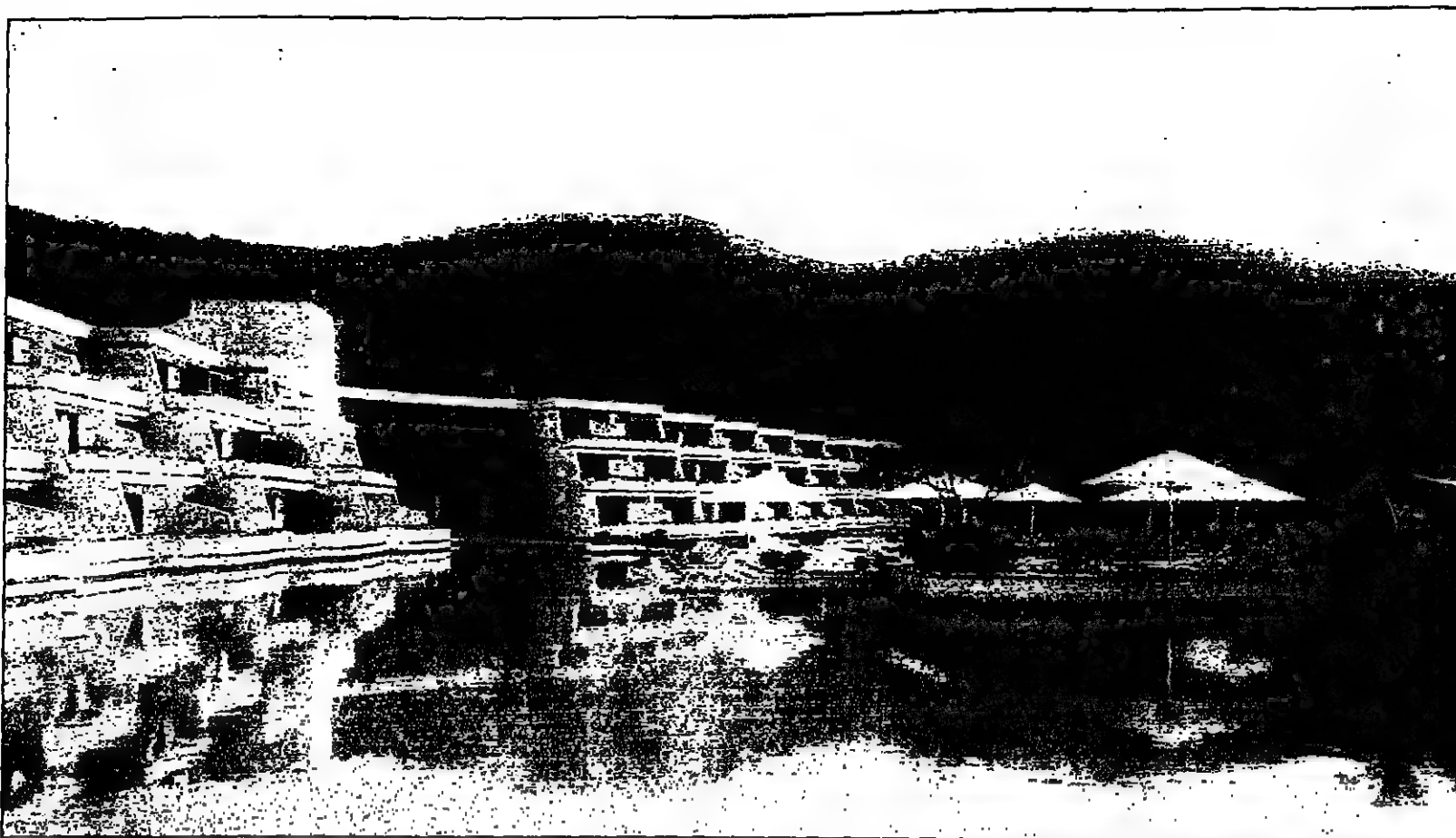
Getting there

□ Campervan hire: Koola Rentals, Perth 00619 277 1000; Adelaide 00618 234 1462. Two-birth Toyota high-top from \$95 (£47) to \$135 a day, depending on season (no extra charge for one-way Perth to Adelaide rental). Budget Campervan Rentals, Perth 00619 479 1919; Adelaide 00618 234 4979. Four-birth Holden Rodeo from \$105 to \$120 a day (\$400 extra charge for one-way).

□ A motel double room costs from \$50-\$60, a powered site for a campervan \$16-\$20.

□ The Royal Automobile Club of Australia produces a detailed Eyre Highway map. Price \$3 available from RAC Touring, Perth 00619 421 4488.

□ Rainbow World of Choice (01904 628080) can arrange a trip from the UK, including flights and campervan hire, from £1,090.



The Hayman Island resort, with its luxurious waterside apartments set amid lush tropical vegetation, is a place of magic and fantasy

Stirred on 007 island

James Bond would immediately recognise Hayman Island. It's the sort of luxurious tropical playground where he always ended up in the 007 films after being pursued by villains trying to throw him into lagoons snuffed with piranhas.

Hayman has lush, tropical vegetation and white sands; the same hint of shark in the turquoise seas; that almost unreal air of sumptuous hi-tech luxury and multimillion-dollar art collections amid the coral reefs; the flashy powerboats and seaplanes growing into the blue marina; the helicopters clattering overhead; the same cast of beefy young "gardeners" patrolling the grounds in their sinister, reflecting sunglasses.

There's even a private dining room with a 23-carat gold-leaf ceiling and a 16th-century chandelier. And when I flew in from the mainland my boarding card was numbered 007.

Bond, of course, would have been pursued all over the island by murderous heavies, poisonous snakes, man-eating spiders and girls. I did see a couple of snakes when I took a five-mile hike around the island, but they seemed lazy and harmless. I was pursued by nothing more dangerous than a pretty waitress with a smile as large as the vodka.

The resort is a place of magic and fantasy, and since it was renovated in 1987 at a cost of £150 million it has regularly been voted Australia's leading resort, and one of the world's top five.

Twenty miles off the coast of Queensland, Hayman is one of the 74 Whitsunday Islands scattered along the Great Barrier Reef, most of them uninhabited. Only three miles long by one mile wide, it has one 820ft hill, called Cook's Lookout after Captain James Cook, who sailed past on Whit Sunday in 1770.

The ambience is of unashamed luxury. The treatment starts as you step off the plane at the larger Hamilton Island and board the cruiser *Sun Goddess* for the 50-minute voyage to Hayman. I was greeted with champagne, and the dolphins skipped beside the boat to say hello.

Staff outnumber guests at the resort; the 203 rooms and 11 penthouse suites are vast, with marble floors and glorious views across the Coral Sea. The public rooms have



Sleek cruisers, with waiters serving champagne, take guests for trips around the islands



rich carpets, antiques, paintings, sculptures and tapestries, and are linked by shady walks past waterfalls, fountains and ponds with gliding swans and green-headed ducks. The ferny gardens, splashed with hibiscus and bougainvillea, respond to the cries of yellow cockatoos and laughing kookaburras.

There are six restaurants — French, Italian and oriental among them — and a nightclub, health centre, shopping arcade, tennis and squash courts, and a library. It also has three swimming pools, one a vast, linked waterway seven times the size of an Olympic pool.

You can enjoy every watersport, and chase wild goats through the bush, as I did, disturbing gaudy parrots, blue kingfishers and rainbow lorikeets, and sending up clouds of huge Blue Tiger butterflies. Even the temperature is perfect: an average 88F in summer (November-April) and 77F in winter, with cool island breezes.

There are more pleasures. I will never forget the two-hour

sunset cruise aboard the yacht *Serenade* (£35 each), when we sat in silence amid a string of lonely islands and sipped champagne as we watched the sun go down across the purple silhouette of Queensland.

Or the day we took an old De Havilland seaplane (£110 each) across the glittering sea to the Great Barrier Reef, where we snorkelled among the purple, red and yellow coral, underwater canyons and fished with multicoloured fish — some silver-blue, some black and red, some blue with yellow tails.

On another day, we flew to Whitsunday Island (£75 each) and parked the seaplane among the stingrays basking in the shallows of Whitehaven Beach, the best beach I have ever seen. We swam, picnicked on seafood and chilled white wine and walked for miles on the deserted beach. I would not have been surprised to find a footprint belonging to a man called Friday.

Hayman and its sister islands are made for fantasy and romance. Newspapers in the 1930s reported several sightings off Hayman Island of a Loch Ness-type sea monster, an alarmingly revolting creature with small eyes, "a snake-like head... like a large turtle", and a "huge armoured" body. Bond would probably recognise that, too. It sounds just like Oddjob.

GRAHAM LORD

Getting there

□ Graham Lord flew to Hayman Island via Hong Kong and Sydney as a guest of Virgin Atlantic, Ansett Australia Airlines and Austravel (30 Conduit Street, London W1R 9EB (0171-838 1011). B&B on Hayman costs from £185 a room a night for one or two people to £1,400 a night for the French Provincial penthouse. Austravel offers a low-season seven-night Hayman package from £657 a person including flights and a stopover.

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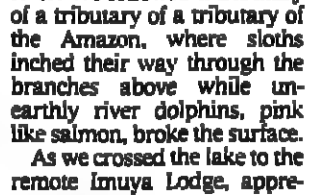
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Sailing up the Aguarico in a wobbly canoe

Ecuador's jungle tourism, concentrated mostly along the Napo River to the south, is minimal along the Aguariño. The Orellana — a riverboat hotel or "flore" — and a few small-scale, low-impact thatched camps provide an ideal series of bases from which to explore the river and the surrounding rainforest of the 600,000-hectare Cuyabeno Reserve. The riverbanks are also home to scattered settlements of Siceoya and Cofan people, and the odd military outpost such as the one alongside our camp at Zancudo.

No sooner had we settled into our camp — a simple but well-maintained collection of



The great lesson of the rainforest — that it is essentially a benign and beautiful place rather than the infested swamp of popular imagination — impressed itself upon us. As we returned upriver, Carlos pointed out a pile of discarded steel pipes near Zaucundo. Last year, local people, tour operators and even the military had joined forces to stop an oil company sinking a well here. "Tourism not only provides local people with work," explained Carlos. "It has also given them free access to our company doctor, helped them to pay for a teacher and supplied them with solar panels and outboards."

For the time being, sustainable tourism is keeping the oilmen and loggers at bay.



Riverside beauty: ibises

Getting there

□ The Ecuadorian Amazon can be visited all year round. September to December are drier. June to August are wetter, but be ready for rain any time.

□ Guide book: *Ecuador and The Galapagos Islands* (Lonely Planet, £10.95).

Highlights of Syria

Compelling and starkly beautiful, Syria stretches along the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to Lebanon and is backed in the North by the Jebel an-Nusariyah mountain range. To the south-east lies the desert - barren stretches of stony plains which are home to the Bedouins who graze their sheep there through the winter months. This 9 day tour reveals the highlights of Syria, beginning in Damascus - said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. On to the beautiful oasis of Palmrya on the northern edge of the desert and then explore Aleppo, Syria's second city, with its maze of covered souqs. Finally, you'll reach the south coast to the imposing fortress of Crac des Chevaliers, the headquarters for the Knights of St John.



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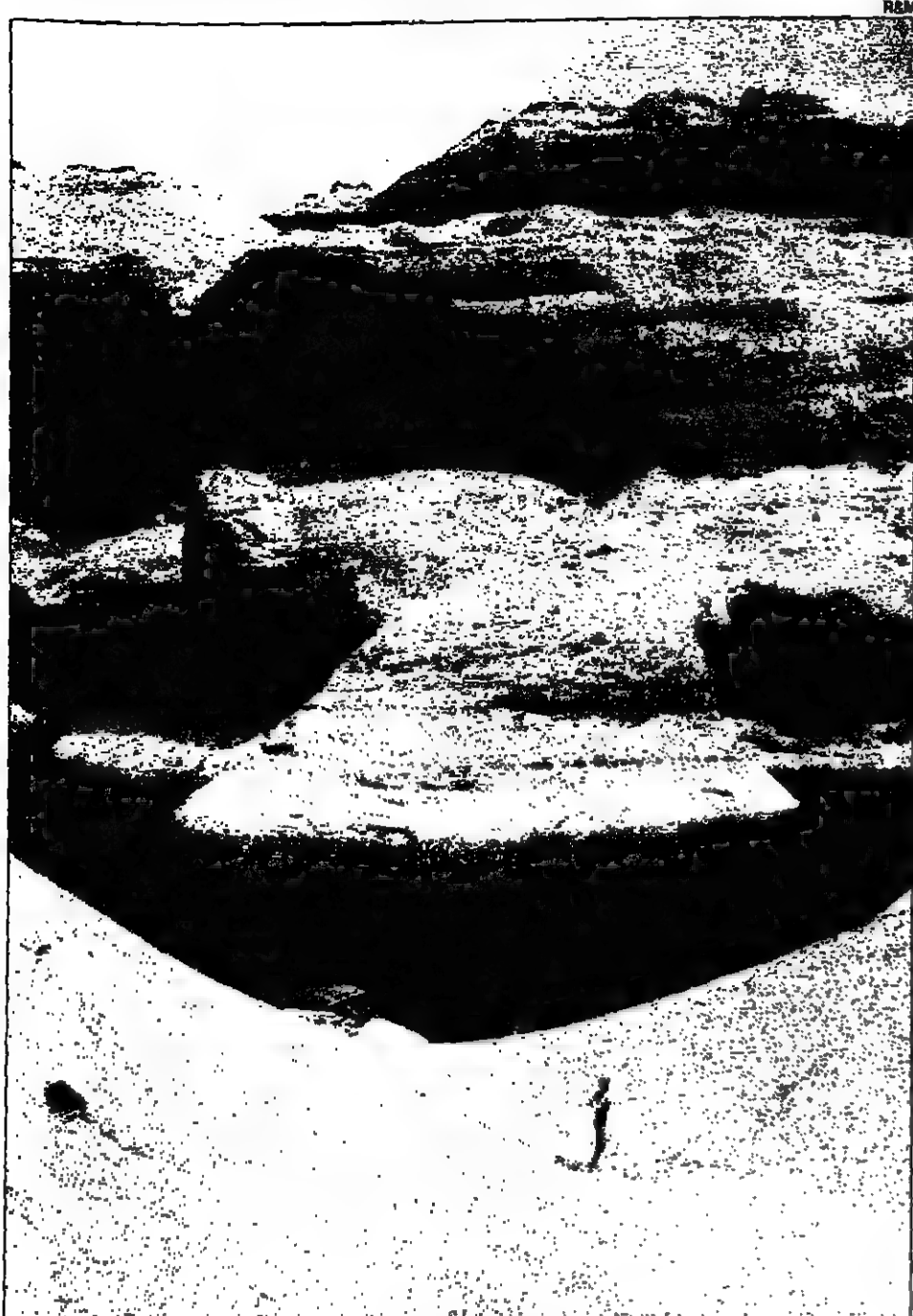
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AMERICA: Martin Fletcher explores by boat the sandstone islands and dramatic canyons of Lake Powell



The Colorado River, which took 17 years to back up from the dam and form Lake Powell

Sheer heaven at a lake made by man



In 1888 a US Army expedition ventured into the land of scorching desert and barren mountains where the Colorado River has gouged its way across the Utah-Arizona border. "Ours has been the last, and will probably be the last, party to visit this professed locality," wrote Lieutenant Joseph Ives, a member of the expedition. "It seems intended by nature that the Colorado River, along the greater portion of its lovely and majestic way, shall forever be unvisited and undisturbed."

Lieutenant Ives was spectacularly wrong. Man thwarted nature's plans. In 1963 the last of nearly five million cubic yards of concrete was poured, and the Glen Canyon Dam completed. Over the next 17 years, the waters of the Colorado River backed up 186 miles to form Lake Powell, America's second largest man-made lake, and one of the world's most sublime and



Americans enjoy taking luxurious boats out on to the relatively unvisited Lake Powell

scenic year-round playgrounds.

Here, sheer rock walls soar hundreds of vertical feet from the lake's glass-smooth surface. There, low islands of warm red sandstone slip gently into the deep blue waters. From what was once the Colorado's winding river-course, branch watery side-canyons too numerous to count, some opening unexpectedly into great echoing amphitheatres of sculpted stone, while others taper into

twisting corridors so narrow that only the smallest boats can penetrate.

Lieutenant Ives was right about one thing. Though scarcely a half-day's drive from such tourist honeypots as Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and the Bryce and Zion national parks, Lake Powell does remain relatively unvisited and undisturbed. It lies like a flooded Grand Canyon in the midst of a million acres of government-designated wilderness, and is virtually inaccessible by road.

It boasts 1,960 miles of labyrinthine shoreline, more than America's Pacific coast. The only way to explore it is by boat over several days, and during six years in America I have seldom enjoyed a more perfect escape.

You hire the boat from Page, a small town at the lake's southernmost tip, originally built for the dam's construction workers. The affluent take houseboats complete with microwaves, barbecues and roof-mounted water slides. The five of us took a modest 19ft powerboat into which we piled our camping gear one morning and sped off into an aquatic wild west.

We spent the next few sun-drenched days alternately bouncing our way across expanses of azure water or gently nosing into tranquil canyons bearing such exotic

names as Cascade, Dungeon or Lost Eden.

In one, the aptly named Forbidding Canyon, the water is spanned by the world's largest natural arch, the 290ft-high Rainbow Bridge, which the Navajo Indians call "Nonnezashi" — the "rainbow turned to stone" — and still consider sacred.

We dived endlessly into the deep, warm, pristine waters. We picnicked on hot flat rocks with lizards the only other life in sight. We towed our exhilarated children in our wake on an inflated tube. We fished for the abundant trout and bass and catfish, searched for petroglyphs on the rock faces and hiked along ancient Indian trails leading up into the desert.

In the evenings, drowsy from so much fresh air, we watched the sinking sun set the cliffs and buttes aglow, built a fire to cook on, then camped alone on sandy beaches beneath a brilliant galaxy of stars and listened to distant coyotes howling in the night.

Lake Powell enjoys sunshine for 78 per cent of the year, and between March and May the houseboat renters are guaranteed an extra day for every day that is not sunny, but you can occasionally get caught out. On our final afternoon, as we drifted slowly homewards, the horizon suddenly turned ink black, light-

Getting there

□ Page is roughly 280 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona, and about the same distance eastwards from Las Vegas.

□ Boats and rooms at Wahweap Lodge can be reserved through Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas, PO Box 56909, Phoenix, Arizona 85079 (001 602 278 8888; fax 001 602 331 5388).

□ During the summer, houseboats begin at \$1,245 (1996) a week (including fuel and tax) and rise to \$3,495 for the most expensive, which sleep ten. During the winter, prices range from \$745 to \$2,079. Spring and autumn prices are somewhere in between, and three or four-day rentals are also possible.

□ A 19 ft powerboat costs \$1,125 a week during peak season, falling to \$675 in the winter. Jetskis, waterskis and inflated tubes can also be rented. Wahweap Lodge, located on the lake six miles outside Page, costs approximately \$120 a night for a double room.

ning rent the sky and banks of rain obscured the mighty Navajo mountain.

As this dramatic storm swept across the lake in all its elemental fury, we and a score of other small craft raced it back to Page, beating it by a whisker.

Such storms are the price of visiting in August, known locally as the monsoon season. Lake Powell never gets really cold, however. Spring and autumn are said to be particularly beautiful, and you can even take out boats at Christmas.

A few warnings. Reach Page the night before, check into the lakeside Wahweap Lodge, and complete all the paperwork for your boat that night because the queues can be lengthy in the morning. Buy your provisions before you leave because the lake's five scattered marinas stock only essentials. Be prepared to spend a lot on petrol — our boat consumed \$60 worth a day, and the bigger houseboats can do as little as one mile to the gallon.

Finally, this being America, the motor rules supreme and there is hardly a sailing boat in sight. Indeed, the grander houseboats process up the lake towing a waterski boat, and often a couple of jetskis behind that.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

CAPARISON

(b) Commonly (well not exactly commonly) used these days in the sense of a rather grand form of dress, or to dress someone up to the nines in their best soup-and-fish. Originally it just meant the covering for a horse. "You are indeed magnificently caparisoned tonight, Jane."

REBOANT

(d) Reverberating very loudly, from the Latin reboare I make the welkin resound and re-echo. "Children, pay attention please. Remember that this is an ancient and holy chapel of remembrance we are going into. When

we get inside, would you all please lower your voices to the reboot level?"

ASPIRATOR

(c) Medical instrument for drawing pus from abscesses. "I think it would be a nice gesture, dear, if we gave James an aspirator for Christmas."

MAMMIFEROUS

(a) With breasts. All mammals, male or female, but needless to say, most commonly applied in relation to the latter. As your taxi passes the YWCA, "Excuse me, Mama, but I think I have spotted some fine specimens of the mammifera." And seizing your butterfly net, you leap out, and send the taxi on with Mother.

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Costa Cruises

TRAVEL

21

SKIING: Norway's uncrowded slopes and gentle runs are perfect for families

Unhip, but perfectly cool

There is no worse time to look for a winter holiday than at Christmas. There is no resort anywhere in the Alps or North America not crammed to the rafters — none with guaranteed snowscapes at village level, and none where entire families can safely scour the slopes together.

There is one place, however, where the seasonal signs of green firs, Yuletide fires and rosy reindeers are unmarred by excessive crowds, and where the pistes are gentle enough for toddlers and grandparents to toboggan and ski together without fear of predatory swoops by boy racers: Norway.

It is exactly Norway's lack of appeal to the red-piste ravers, the glühwein gulpers and the budget groupies that makes its snow-sure, slow and traditional Nordic resorts ideal for a family escape. Norway is for giving the liver a rest and the legs a workout with cross-country skiing.

The arguments against are what keep most downhill skiers away. There are no vast interconnected ski arenas to compare with the Trois Vallées in France. There are no Farm Club discos to entice the Fergies. A small glass of beer at £3, a bottle of vin ordinaire at £18, are arguments enough for abstemiousness.

There are advantages, however: a six-day ski pass in Norway's most expensive resort, Hemnesdal, costs £87, compared with £138 in Courchevel and £170 in Verbier. Christmas week at Norway's leading mountain hotel, the Dr Holmes in Geilo, costs £599, with half board and flights, from Crystal. A similar hotel in Val d'Isère for the same week costs more than £900 with Crystal.

Norwegian skiing is not high. The tops of Norwegian resorts are often below the level of the bottoms of French resorts. But, thanks to northern latitudes, the snow is of excellent quality, ample and early. Last winter, when the Alps were denuded until January, Norway was buried in snow. Skiing begins in mid-November and ends in May.

Despite the Winter Olympic runs in Lillehammer and a number of World Cup courses, Norway's challenge lies not in its black downhill pistes but in the classic Nordic disciplines of telemark and cross-country.

The telemark style was invented by Sondre Norheim, who ascended the world back in



Despite the runs at Lillehammer, above, Norway's challenges lie in its telemark and cross-country disciplines

the 1860s with his flying leaps ending in the banded knee telemark turn.

Today, "freestyle" skiing, so called because the heel is not held down in the binding on telemark skis, is an avid cult in the Alps and America. Still, nobody does it better than the Norwegians, as they have demonstrated repeatedly in world championship events. And there is nowhere better to learn, especially as the standard of English in Norway, not to mention the genuinely welcoming attitude of instructors, is far superior to France or Italy.

Cross-country trails, free of charge, are everywhere. Headwater, a holiday firm specialising in cross-country skiing, recommends the three

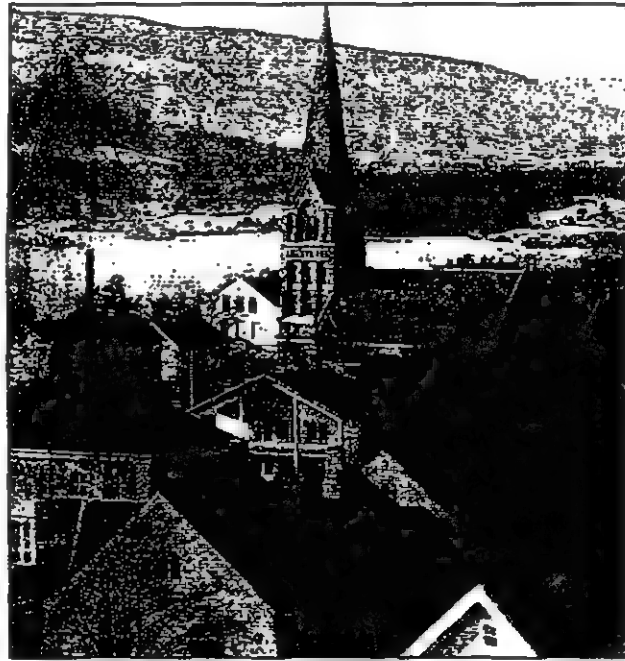
villages of Venaby, Sjusjøen and Nesbyen, which among them have more than 600 km of cross-country skiing in stunning terrain. Waymark, an even more adventurous Nordic specialist, offers courses in telemark skiing and a series of overland tours, staying in mountain huts.

Norway's best-known resort, Lillehammer, is not raised highly as a winter-holiday destination by British tour operators, despite its Olympic cachet. This is mainly because its skiing and self-catering flats are spread out over an intolerably inconvenient distance by Norwegian standards. A car is usually required.

Norwegians like lovely jumpers, reindeer rides, mid-night sleighs and trains. But they don't like cars and they have banned snowmobiles. Drinking, as everyone knows, occurs. But eating really is encouraged. Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets groan with meats, fish and puddings such as sour cream waffles with gooseberry jam. Nobody goes hungry on half-board.

In any Norwegian resort queues, even at Christmas, are unheard of. Children, however, are conspicuous by their presence. Under-sevens always ski free, and are even given free helmets, which they must by law wear at all times on the pistes. Parents who have wondered just what it is that the Swiss do with their kids — as they certainly don't seem to go in for crèches — will find that playrooms and child-minding facilities are ubiquitous by comparison in Norway.

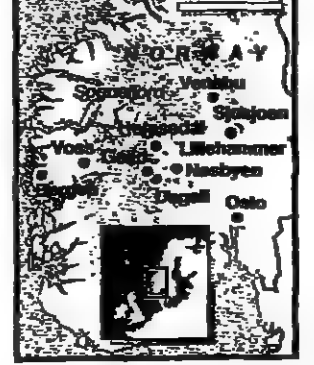
No one should go to Norway without seeing the fiords. Geilo (pronounced yea-low) is right on the banks of one. Geilo is the heart of what the Norwegians call "Winterland", and best for beginners and families looking for a high standard of accommodation. Hemnesdal, just north of



Lillehammer: Olympic chalet but too spread out

Geilo, is the biggest and best resort for downhill, or alpine-style skiing and a popular snowboarding centre. Hemnesdal has fairly challenging off-piste tree skiing too, and is the Norwegian resort which best approximates to the kind of good, groomed piste skiing that most British intermediates adore.

Hemnesdal and Geilo are along the old-fashioned Flam Railway tour, which takes in



Europe's longest fiord, Sognefjord (200 km), and negotiates a vertical drop of 2,838 ft by means of spiral tunnels inside the mountains. Other diversions, in all Norwegian resorts, include driving husky-dog sledges and learning how to build igloos.

Voss, also alongside a fiord, and about an hour and a half from Bergen airport, is considered a bargain, and attracts what passes for the young and rowdy set in Norway. Although children under seven still ski for free, there are no special children's classes in the ski school.

If it seems like a long way to go to get away from the crowds and back to an earlier age of wood and wool, note that Crystal has introduced direct UK flights to Dagali airport in southern Norway, cutting down transfer times to Hemnesdal to 90 minutes, (three and a half hours from Oslo) and to Geilo now only 30 minutes instead of three and a half hours.

DOUG SAGER

Fact file

Crystal (0181-399 5144) is unique among mainstream operators in offering a wide range of hotel, flat and chalet accommodation in Voss, Geilo and Hemnesdal. Hemnesdal also has the first British-run chalet in Norway. Half-board hotel accommodation for seven nights with flights ranges from £349 to £649.

Headwater (01606 48699) is a cross-country specialist with experienced guides and package offers at one hotel only in three out-of-the-way Norwegian Nordic skiing centres. Prices with flights and full board from £618 to £786.

Waymark (01753 516477) offers the most comprehensive choice of non-traditional skiing holidays, with cross-country skiing in Finland, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain as well as 11 resorts in Norway. Accommodation runs from "unsophisticated" to log cabins and high standard hotels. Telemark and cross-country lessons as well as overland tours around Troll mountain and the Jotunheim mountains are included in Waymark's programme. Prices for seven nights full board and flights range from £460 to £745.

The Norwegian Tourist Office has a ski hot line (0171-321 0666) with information on snow conditions, resorts and tour operators.

PRE SKI

STRENGTH (Quadriceps)
① Magal push: Lie back, resting weight on your elbows, curl the back pushing the pelvis under and contracting the abdomen. Flex both feet, draw knees toward chest, imagining you are absorbing a magal.



Then, extend the legs towards ceiling, as if in the valley beyond magal.

② Downhill squats: Stand with feet shoulder width apart, feet turned inward, knees and hips, rest hands on thighs. Slowly extend at both knees and hips until arms are almost straight. Repeat 20 times.



Exercises extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Colker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc p&p. The Times cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

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GAMES

25

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

SINCE 1886, each of the 13 World Champions has pushed forward the boundaries of chess knowledge, science and art, and has reflected the intellectual ethos of his day. Steinitz, the first, was a contemporary of Darwin and Marx, and like them he tried to impose a rigid theory. Lasker, the second, was active in the early 20th century, at a time of world conflict. He was a philosopher who, appropriately, developed an entire intellectual programme based on the struggle.

One of the best ways to improve your chess is to adopt a hero, then follow and study that player's games closely. What better heroes to adopt than the World Champions themselves?

Garry Kasparov has often stated that Alexander Alekhine, who held sway from 1927 until 1946, is his chess hero. The influence is clear. Both love combinations and the attack, though in 1927, when Alekhine had to face the virtually invincible Capablanca for the world championship, he curbed his natural predilections to become a super-strategist. Kasparov had to learn the same lesson when struggling against Karpov six decades later.

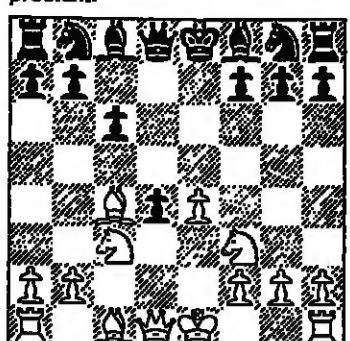
This game shows Alekhine's shock tactics, which bowled over so many unsuspecting opponents. It also reveals his main weakness, an overweening impatience which sometimes seduced him into unsound adventures. My notes are based on those of Alekhine himself who, with characteristic honesty, pointed out that on move 6 Black could virtually have refuted White's conception.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Max Euwe
Haarlem 1937
Queen's Gambit Slav Defence
1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nc3 dxc4 4 e4 e5 5 Bxc4

This sacrificial combination is certainly very tempting and, especially over the board, extremely difficult to refute.

5... exd4 6 Nf3. Presenting

Black with a difficult practical problem.



6... b5. The main variation Alekhine had in mind was 6... dxc3 7 Bx7+ Ke7 8 Qb3 Nf6 9 e5 Ne4 10 d4. But instead of 8... Nf6 Black should play 8... cxb2 9 Bxb2 Qb6 10 Bxg8 Rg8 11 Qxg8 Qb4+ 12 Nd2 Qxb2 after which his middlegame chances, in spite of the approximate equality of forces, are higher than White's remaining possibilities of a direct attack.

7 Ndb5. Dr Euwe admitted simply overlooking this move. The knight obviously cannot be taken because of 8 Bc5 winning material.

7... Ba6 8 Qb3. An important move with three objectives: to protect the king's bishop, to prevent a black check at b4 and to strengthen the pressure against 7.

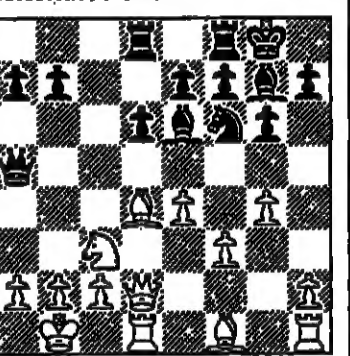
8... Qe7 9 d4 10 Bxb5 11 Bc4 12 Nc2 13 Qc2 14 Nf3 15 Bf4 16 Bx7+

And now the rook is in danger. Black cannot avoid material loss.

20... Rb8 21 Rad1 22 Bxc5 23 Rf5

Black resigns.

Last week's winners: R Hulley, Croydon, Surrey; D Timbrell, Chingford, Essex; G H Tebble, Horstead, Norfolk.



Last week's solution: 1... Rxe2+

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 81, Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 8.



"Very nice, but I'll have a box of tissues instead, please."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr L. Day of Lydd-on-Sea, Kent



Manager (by way of introducing rural idyll). "Let us see, have you the cream of your cream?"

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CAPARISON

a. A logical comparison

b. Horse clothes

c. A spice like a clove

REBOANT

a. A soldier ant

b. Flowing backwards

c. Reverberating

ASPIRATOR

a. An ambitious nouveau

b. A Greek accent

c. A pus drawer

MAMMIFEROUS

a. Bearing firebrones

b. A volcanic stratum

c. Having breasts

Answers on page 20

COMPUTER GAMES



Terminal Velocity: 3D scenery

IT IS not only soldiers with the British Army who can play military manoeuvres in the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons in Wales. With US Gold's Terminal Velocity you, too, can wreak havoc in stunning settings with an uncanny resemblance to the breathtaking Brecons.

This airborne shoot-'em-up sees you climbing, swooping and thrusting your way in a fighter jet through a mountainous 3D environment, destroying all in your path. Targets range from towering concrete constructions to trickier moving bull's-eyes, enemy jets, tanks and amphibious craft.

If you can navigate your way into the awkward openings, there is also a network of underground tunnels to find. Hitting the right spots above or below ground offers rewards to keep you alive, such as power-packs, deadlier weapons and "afterburn" jets. The afterburn boosters allow you to flee rapidly, albeit nauseously, any danger zone.

Straightforward but satisfying, with no need to master complex flight-sim technicalities beforehand, Terminal Velocity is the perfect, mindless blast-up to relieve

the tensions of a gruelling day. It is harmless enough, yet hits the spot perfectly.

The game seems like a progression of the engaging two-dimensional, vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up, Raptor. Adding further to speculation that the two titles might be related, a Shareware version of Raptor is included on the CD-Rom.

There are also similarities between Terminal Velocity and Gremlin Interactive's Slipstream 5000. This airborne racing game is also set in 3D milieux — including courses in London, the Grand Canyon, the Black Forest and

Tokyo — but, unlike Terminal Velocity, it handles haphazardly. This is the last call for Cyberspace Eighteen, which closes at midnight on Tuesday. The main prize is a £200 portable electronic Philips "Routefinder" which, through on-screen instructions, guides you economically around Britain.

In addition to the Routefinder, our winner and five runners-up will receive Micro Machines '96 for the Sega Mega Drive. This is Codemasters' latest incarnation of its pedigree racing game.

To enter, nominate a well-known person whom you believe to be in urgent need of a Routefinder, and explain your reasons. Cyberspace Eighteen is open to all ages, and you can enter as many times as you like. Send your entries, which must be legible and include your name, age, address and telephone number, to: Cyberspace Eighteen, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AS YOU probably know, when the opponents have five trumps between them, a 3-2 break is more likely than a 4-1 break. For most practical purposes that knowledge is sufficient, although occasionally the fact that the 3-2 break is 68 per cent and the 4-1 break 28 per cent may have a bearing on the play of the hand. So how do you handle the trumps on these two hands?

Dealer North East-West Vul IMP's

W	N	E	S
Pass	3♠	2♥(1)	2♣
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: Jack of hearts
(1) Weak Two (six-card suit)

East plays the queen on the first heart and you duck. East continues with the king of hearts, and you win with West following. All follow to the king of spades, and West plays small on the second spade. Do you play the ten or the ace?

This is the second hand:

W	N	E	S
Pass	3♥	2♠	2♣
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: King of clubs

When the king of clubs holds, West continues with another club; you play low from dummy and East wins with the ten. East switches to the four of diamonds. You win in hand and play a spade to the queen, which holds. You play another spade and East follows small. How do you continue?

The full deal for the first hand is shown at the top of the next column. The Canadian Joe Silver was the declarer, in the clash between Canada and South Africa in the round-robin phase of the Bermuda Bowl a month ago. Both teams qualified for the second phase, and Canada went on to the final, where they lost to USA 11. The first good thing Silver did was to duck the opening heart. He felt that East would have opened

♠A106	♥874	♦876	♣KQ54
♠J873	♥J6	♦AJ85	♣1087
♠KQ954	♥A3	♦Q3	♣AJ92

Three Hearts with a seven-card suit, and he wanted to see what East (Henry Mansell) would do if left on lead.

When East continued hearts Silver took the view he could not have a singleton in either minor — otherwise he would have shifted to that suit. So with six hearts and length in both minors the chance of East holding a singleton spade was increased. Whether it increases by enough to make it correct to finesse in spades I don't know, but Silver was sufficiently convinced to put in the ten of spades on the second round. Alan Truscott described the play in the bulletin as "a golden thought by Silver". At every other table where the contract was Four Spades it went off.

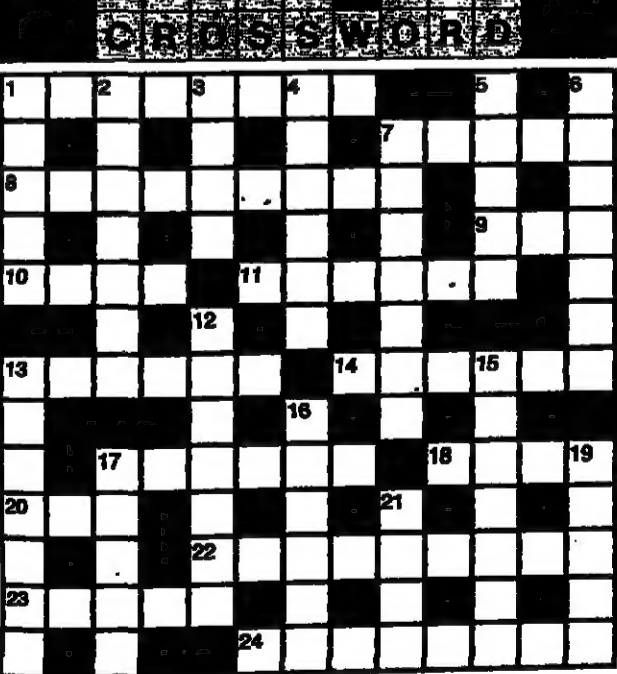
The second hand was played in the round-robin match between USA 1 and France. France got to the semi-final, where they were beaten by the other American team. Jimmy Cayne was the declarer, with Chelma West and Perron East. This was the full deal:

♠Q2	♥AKJ543	♦Q2	♣Q95
♠Q876	♥1087653	♦K8	♣AJ10742
♠KJ9874	♥2	♦AKJ8	♣63

When East played low on the second spade, Cayne finessed the seven. When that held he was home. But why did Cayne play East for four spades to the ace-ten? The key was the fact that Perron did not lead a third club. Perron knew that Cayne would discover the trump position when Chelma was unable to overruff — so he didn't lead a club. But Cayne could also see that that must have been the reason for Perron's failure to lead a third club. That placed the trumps with East.

East should have played a club anyway. A good declarer is always going to draw the correct inference if he fails to do so. If West's singleton spade is the nine, playing a third club will promote a trump trick. But if East exits with a diamond, West's nine of spades will fall under the queen and the declarer may well finesse the eight on the second round.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 618

- ACROSS
- Glumpse, view (of quarry) (8)
 - Stage work (5)
 - Dungeon one is dropped in (9)
 - Position; fib (3)
 - Realise; bit of tree (4)
 - Walt — animator (6)
 - Throat (6)
 - Support, esp. for body weight (6)
 - Bruno — conductor (6)
 - Cut; bargain (4)
 - Standard; equality (3)
 - Left-winger (9)
 - Tsar's edict (5)
 - (Bridge) player of contract (8)
- DOWN
- Sir 17ac —, novelist (5)
 - An archangel; 17ac —, old Archers character (7)
 - Endpiece; follow (4)
 - Stupid person (6)
 - Another stupid person (5)
 - Sir 17ac —, explorer (7)
 - House of head of cathedral (7)
 - One living in solitude (7)
 - 17ac —, 20C architect (7)
 - More tasty; Morocco port (7)
 - Pull from danger (6)
 - Inflict, do (damage, harm) (5)
 - Father (arch.); 17ac —, 19C essayist (5)
 - Snout's loam and rough-cast role (MND) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 617

ACROSS: 1 Miscast 5 Cubic 8 Baize 9 Whamot
10 Disbevelment 12 Cubism 14 Octavo 17 Identifiable
21 Unwells 22 Flumb 23 Allah 24 Slender

DOWN: 1 Moby-Dick 2 Swiss 3 Ageless 4 Townee
5 Charm 6 Bonanza 7 Cats 11 November 13 Bedevil
15 Cripple 16 Misses 18 Neigh 19 Bound 20 Cuba

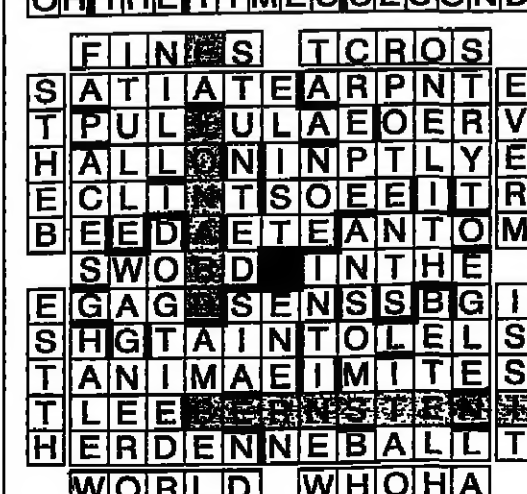
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No. 3330: Key Numbers by Le Gallois

CLUES are normal but nearly half the lights (24) are to be coded before entry on a numerical basis (A-1,27 etc) initiated by a simple trigger. Chambers (1993) doesn't include the answer to 24d (an obsolete form of a common word, to be found in the OED) or 42a (in Collins), but is otherwise recommended.

- ACROSS
- Music producer old misery largely confronting a dog (9)
 - Fiddle with lines to hoodwink (4)
 - Forward publicity for Rana's relative (4)
 - Almost complete and explosive charge of thunder (7)
 - Cycle race is cut short by this oak (6)
 - All chromosomes play in old bud (5)
 - It's indecent to live endlessly in retirement (4)
 - Shoot judge pursuing favourite shock treatment (6)
 - Accented (loosely) name in diary (4)
 - Cleric in great dispute (4)
 - Flat in the country oddly in full use (4)
 - Student to take in police as figured (8)
 - Writer losing head about commercial design (4)
 - Stands with divisions but runs to take cover (11)
- DOWN
- Crock to take into main dealer (9)
 - Air passage in a restricted area (4)
 - Craving kicked in a manner of speaking (4)
 - Counter chatter, "butters' salt" (7)
 - Islam's agitation for Indian workers (5)
 - Stop king supporting Homer (4)
 - Music maker's arrangement for Peking cellos (12)
 - Standard Scott novel without Greenheart for example (5)
 - Take off fast finally after runner (4)
 - Girls come to South Africa in expectation of simple form of life (12)
 - Outdated club pursues deceptive harmony (11)
 - Sea monster's beat off Mediterranean island (4)
 - Coat only half a flap (3)
 - A couple of girls reportedly fabricating material (9)
 - Follow up on English welfare which is outdated (4)
 - Pursue faint heart (3)
 - Designs to offend historic village (7)
 - Friends popping up to take shift (5)
 - Nut in Nice rising to one who did not turn (5)
 - A little lark, say, ascending (4)
 - Scots delivered the French town (4)
 - Showing surprise about Henry's fat? (4)
 - Principle of primogeniture in regular division of tribe (4)

ON THE TIMES SECOND



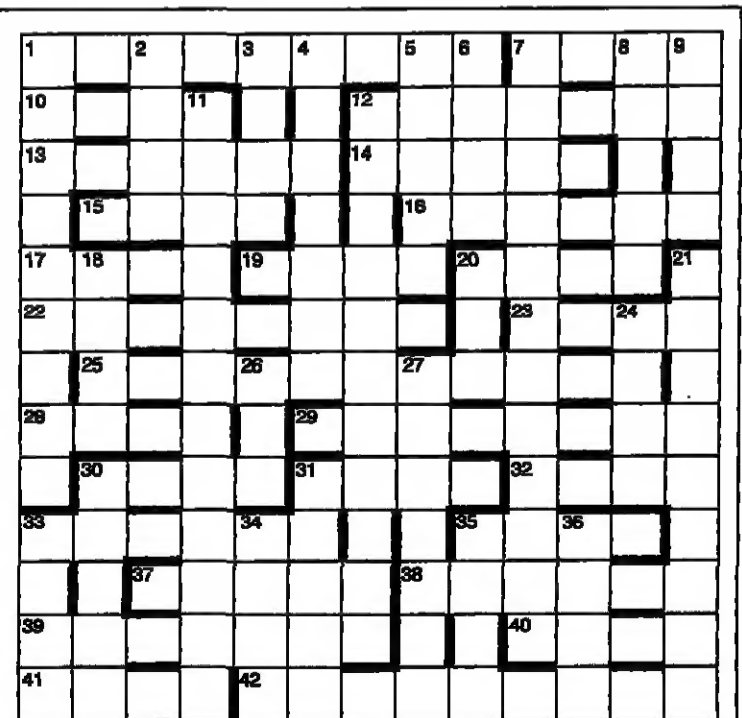
Solution and notes to No. 3327 "Conversation Piece" by Hysterix

CONVERSATION PIECE — "Oh, THE TIMES," he says in a mocking English accent. "Second-finest crossword in the world." "Who has the best?" "THE LISTENER," Bernstein replies. "Never miss it."

Extract from "The day I met ... Leonard Bernstein" by Richard Morrison. Arts Editor. Published in The Times, December 28 1994

The winner is A.R. King of Standlake, Witney, Oxfordshire.

The runners-up are A.K. Jobbings of Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire and D. Rainford of Leeds.



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